

Khomeini spoof sparks new row

THE HAGUE (AP) — Iran has threatened it could no longer guarantee the safety of Dutch nationals in Tehran if a film clip ridiculing Ayatollah Khomeini was shown on television here, a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman disclosed Tuesday. A 20-second spoof on Ayatollah Khomeini by Dutch-born entertainer Rudi Carrell, aired on West German television last week. Carrell has worked in West Germany for at least two decades. That broadcast led to the expulsion of two West German diplomats from Iran, as well as the closing of the Goethe Cultural Institute in Tehran. The Dutch broadcasting station Vara had planned to broadcast the item on Monday night as part of a documentary on the West German-Iranian diplomatic row. But after an unprecedented appeal by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, whose telephone call to the station was broadcast live, the programme was shown without the Carrell clip.



Afghan talks to focus on pullout

GENEVA (R) — Efforts to agree a timetable for the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan will dominate a new round of United Nations peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan starting today. Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil told a news conference in Moscow last week that he would bring specific proposals on a withdrawal timetable to Geneva. "As you know a timetable for the return of the limited contingent of Soviet troops has already been agreed between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan," he said. Mr. Wakil said Kabul had "specific proposals" concerning Soviet withdrawal — the only issue left to be resolved in a four-point U.N. peace plan. The United States doubts the Soviet Union is ready to reach an agreement on troop withdrawal from Afghanistan acceptable to the other parties, a senior U.S. official said. "Maybe it is intellectually clear in Moscow that they have to get out, that the cost to them in terms of Third World, particularly Muslim world, reaction is too high to continue," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told a State Department conference.

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Regent sends good wishes to Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, on his country's National Day (see page 3). In the cable Prince Hassan wished the emir continued health and further progress and prosperity for his country.

Israel jails Arab for life

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli military tribunal Tuesday sentenced a Palestinian to life in prison for an alleged role in the bombing of a Jerusalem bus which killed six passengers and wounded 50. Hasam Mahmud Assila, 25, of Silwan village, admitted in court to being a member of Fatah. He pleaded guilty to being involved in the planning of the attack which took place on Dec. 6, 1983, but said he did not take part in carrying it out.

India denies Israeli contacts

NEW DELHI (AP) — India on Tuesday denied reports that there were secret contacts with Israel over a possible joint attack on a Pakistani nuclear reactor. Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, termed the reports "totally false and baseless." The Jerusalem Post said last week that Israel approached India three times to propose a joint attack on the nuclear reactor at Kahuta outside Islamabad. The newspaper said India rejected all three offers.

Rogers to retire from NATO

BRUSSELS (AP) — U.S. General Bernard W. Rogers, NATO's supreme allied commander in Europe, will leave his post at the end of June, the NATO alliance announced Tuesday. It gave no reason for Gen. Rogers' departure but a spokeswoman for the four-star U.S. general said he was retiring. In a brief statement, NATO said it had agreed "to a request from (U.S.) President (Ronald) Reagan to release Gen. Rogers from his responsibilities as supreme allied commander, Europe with effect from the end of June, 1987."

PNC to meet in March, Wafa says

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine National Council (PNC) is to meet in March in a new effort to reconcile rival Palestinian factions, the PLO news agency Wafa reported Tuesday. The report said Algerian President Chadli Benjedid received a high-level PLO delegation in Algiers on Monday and gave his approval to host the proposed meeting.

Bonn identifies hostage middleman

BONN (AP) — The Bonn government identified a Lebanese man living in West Germany Tuesday as a "contact person" with the kidnappers of two West Germans in Beirut. The man, Rashid Mahroum, was proposed by the kidnappers of Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt as a middleman in their dealings with Bonn, chief government spokesman Friedhelm Ost said in a statement.

INSIDE

- * Israel's nuclear arms can level off all Mideast urban centres, study says, page 2
- * Work permit charges revised, page 3
- * Bangladesh president seems set to keep office, page 4
- * Years of No Decision — Episodes of corridor diplomacy in Mideast, page 5
- * China bags honours in table tennis, page 6
- * GCC warns of harsh measures over oil prices, page 7
- * Shultz praises Gorbachev reform, page 8

Jordan praises EC move and pledges to intensify peace effort

Egypt and PLO welcome European support for int'l conference • U.S. cites 'price of admission' for Moscow

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

JORDAN on Tuesday welcomed an endorsement by the European Community (EC) of the Arab call for an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and said it was a constructive step towards convening the proposed meeting.

Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) also welcomed the decision by the 12-nation community on Monday to endorse the proposal. Israeli leaders were split on the issue (see story on right) and there was no direct comment from Washington but a senior U.S. official cited certain conditions what he described as the "price for admission" of the Soviet Union into efforts for peace in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who returned to Amman on Tuesday after a visit to Brussels where the EC foreign ministers announced their endorsement of the conference idea on Monday, said the European move crowned Jordan's endeavours to enlist support for its call for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the PLO. The foreign minister, who held extensive talks with his EC counterparts in Brussels before Monday's community meeting, noted that the U.S. and Israel were the only parties opposed to the idea of an international conference. Mr. Masri praised Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, current president of the EC Council of Ministers, for his efforts to bring about the EC approval of the proposal and called for intense Arab and interna-

tional efforts towards ening the peace forum as soon as possible. Jordan, he said, will continue its efforts at all levels along with all other interested parties towards this end.

The foreign minister noted that the EC move was of high political significance since the community enjoyed considerable international political and economic influence and was considered as the closest ally of the United States. The Egyptian welcome of the EC move came in remarks made by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid to reporters in Cairo. "Egypt finds the European Community statement to be a positive, constructive step," he said. "Egypt invites other international parties and all directly concerned parties to intensify efforts for 1987 to be the year of negotiations for peace."

This obvious call for Israeli action came one day before Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was due to arrive in Cairo for a two-day visit which Israeli and Egyptian officials described as aimed at reviewing prospects to advance efforts for peace in the

Middle East.

In Tunis, PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said the PLO welcomed the EC decision but called on the community to take practical steps and suggest a venue and procedure for the proposed conference. "We hope that European states will propose a mechanism for the international conference," Abdul Rahman was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Monday's EC statement was couched in general terms and did not specify who should take part. But the community's 1980 Venice Declaration has already stated that the PLO should participate in peace negotiations.

"We appreciate the statement and support it," said Abdul Rahman. But he added: "We need a working declaration which should not go the same way as the Venice Declaration."

He stressed that the PLO should act equally with other participants in any international conference to try to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The EC move, which added the

(Continued on page 3)

Syrians consolidate presence in Beirut amid militia evacuation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops shot and killed three gunmen in west Beirut on Tuesday, the third day of a Syrian military operation aimed at disarming feuding militias.

Police said the three gunmen, the first fatalities since some 7,000 Syrian troops entered Beirut on Sunday, failed to obey a Syrian patrol's orders to stop in the seaside Raouche district, a longtime Druze stronghold. "When the gunmen ran away, Syrian soldiers chased them, killed all three and resumed a search for armed men in the neighbourhood," a police spokesman quoted by AP said.

The bodies were left lying on a barren cliffside overlooking the Mediterranean until a Lebanese Red Cross ambulance drove up to remove them, witnesses said.

Police declined to identify the victims, who all appeared to be aged in the early 20s. But several witnesses told AP they were former members of Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP). The spokesman said that dozens of men were arrested by the Syrians in other parts of the city that were controlled by PSP

and Shi'ite Amal militias. Three Syrians and three PSP men were wounded in a gunbattle Monday. The crackdown came as both the PSP and the Amal militia began evacuating west Beirut and Syrian peace-enforcers moved into the vacated strongholds, including the city's tallest skyscraper. Soldiers brandishing Kalashnikov rifles were seen leaping down from trucks and rushing into a PSP militia barracks in the Jal Al Bahr district.

As the Syrians extended their grip on the troubled capital, police told Reuters 11 bullet-riddled bodies were found after a spate of tit-for-tat killings among warring factions. At least 200 people were killed in six days of bloody street fighting between the Amal militia and leftists, including the PSP, before Syria stepped in at the weekend to restore order.

A long PSP convoy rolled out of the party's main Jal Al Bahr district at first light, heading for the PSP stronghold in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut. Truckloads of militiamen of Amal gunmen left the 40-storey

Murr Tower during the night and headed south, apparently to Beirut's southern Shi'ite suburbs. Syrian officials have warned militia that unless they withdraw from the streets and give up their weapons, the "outlaws" will be shot.

The As Safir newspaper said the Syrian troops had so far taken over 50 militia offices, shot 12 gunmen and arrested at least 10 others in their first major deployment in Beirut since 1976.

Syrians kill 20

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian troops sweeping through the Basta district in west Beirut shot and killed at least 20 militiamen of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) group, militia sources said. The sources said the shooting occurred when Syrian soldiers stormed a building harbouring Hizbollah fighters after gunmen fired on them as they were deploying nearby. Police and security sources in Beirut had no immediate information on the report which sparked tension in the area between the Syrian troops and Hizbollah militiamen in the area.

Hizbollah leaves behind no traces at W. Beirut base

BEIRUT (AP) — Pro-Iranian Shi'ites burned rubber tyres in their west Beirut headquarters on Tuesday in an apparent effort to mask traces of foreign hostages believed to have been held there. Militiamen of the militant Hizbollah (Party of God), were scheduled to hand the building over later Tuesday to Syrian troops who moved into west Beirut Sunday to end street battles between rival militias.

The official, who declined to be named, said the Shi'ite extremists took "every single piece of paper and furniture, not to mention weapons and ammunition" from the headquarters in the slum district of Basta.

"They set fire to rubber tires in every room" of the three-storey old building, "blackening the walls, but not burning it," the official reported.

"They obviously didn't want to burn the building, only use the soot from the burning tires to cover any traces left by the foreign hostages, such as fingerprints or writing on walls. Any attempt to remove the soot would erase whatever traces there are."

The building, which once housed the Sunni Muslim Islamic court, is owned by the Waqf, or Sunni religious properties agency

in Beirut, and burning it down would likely provoke serious religious trouble.

The Lebanese officer, reliable leftist sources and foreign diplomats believe that at least some of the 26 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon have been held at the Hizbollah headquarters in Basta at various times.

Hizbollah militiamen, who owe allegiance to Iran's revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, captured 14 men of Syria's crack special forces during the brief confrontation and held them at the Basta headquarters for two days, police said.

Walid Junblatt, whose Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia was responsible for Anglican church envoy and hostage negotiator Terry Waite's security until he went missing Jan. 20, accused Hizbollah of holding the burly Briton.

Asked whether his forces will try to locate the foreign hostages and free them, Gen. Kenaan grinned and said: "Tell me where they are."

Brigadier General Ghazi Kenaan, Syria's chief of military intelligence in Lebanon, said his men will deploy throughout west Beirut.

PLO seeks urgent Arab meeting on 'camps war'

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked for an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the "camps war" in Lebanon.

Hakim Balouti, the PLO representative in Tunis, said late Monday that the request was made because food and medicine supplies were not allowed into the besieged Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and the wounded could not be evacuated.

Reuters, quoting Palestinian sources, reported from Beirut Monday night that the Shabilla camp, one of three main Palestinian camps in the Lebanese capital, was shelled after the Shi'ite Amal militia said it had lifted its 19-week siege of all Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Earlier, the news agency, quoting witnesses, said shooting from inside the camp stopped refugees from leaving the camp to buy food.

The requested foreign ministers' meeting would be a follow up to a gathering in Tunis in December which was suspended to leave time for a mediation committee to complete its mission on the "camps war."

The PLO told Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Khlil it saw Syria's military intervention in Beirut as a potential threat to Palestinian camps.

The Saudi Arabian government called on Monday for protection of the camps against any assault and appealed for food and medicine to be allowed into the besieged shantytowns.

The appeal, issued after a weekly cabinet session chaired by King Fahd, appeared to be directed at Syrian troops who entered west Beirut Sunday to end factional fighting.

But no direct reference was made to the Syrians in the statements by Information Minister Ali Al Shaer to the Saudi Press Agency.

He said the situation in Lebanon figured highly among "political and security issues" in the Arab World discussed by the cabinet.

"The council affirmed the perpetual concern of Saudi Arabia over the security of the Palestinian camps and the protection of their inhabitants, the sons of the Palestinian nation, from any aggression, while ensuring the continued supply of foodstuffs and medical supplies to the camps," Mr. Shaer said.

Peres' visit to Cairo could break up Israel government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' talks with Egyptian leaders on Wednesday on a Middle East peace conference are likely to force early Israeli elections, a senior Peres aide said Tuesday.

Mr. Peres is due to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a three-day Cairo visit, announced suddenly Monday night, to discuss conditions for an international peace conference which Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir vehemently opposes. "The Peres-Shamir tension on the issue has reached a virtually irreversible point," the Peres aide, a Labour Party and government official, told Reuters.

"It is hard to see how things can calm down now. The most probable outcome is the breaking

up of the cabinet and elections before the end of the year."

The friction between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres, leaders of the two largest political blocs in Israel's coalition government headed up after the conference idea was endorsed by the 12-nation European Community (EC) on Monday.

Mr. Peres said an international conference and his trip to Egypt were means of giving momentum to a peace process that has been stagnant for more than a year.

"If we do not foster (the peace process) and do not work on its behalf, it will collapse. I view this (trip to Egypt) as an additional step in sustaining and furthering the peace process," he said in remarks aired by Israel Radio.

Mr. Shamir dismissed the prop-

osal as a Soviet trick to get involved in the peace process and said the conference would serve only as a forum for attacking Israel.

Speaking to American Jewish leaders in New York, Mr. Shamir said Monday a conference "will not be a further step in the peace process; it will be a stage for propaganda, for extreme speeches."

The international conference was expected to be a major topic on the agenda of Mr. Peres' talks Wednesday and Thursday with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid.

In an interview with Israel Radio aired Tuesday, Mr. Shamir stressed that Mr. Peres was not

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq reports continued Iranian shelling of Basra

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iranian heavy artillery killed and wounded civilians on Tuesday when it shelled the southern Iraqi port city of Basra for the second straight day, an Iraqi military spokesman said.

He said Iranian artillery also struck at the town of Zubair, 20 kilometres southwest of Basra.

Iraq on Monday accused the Iranians of bombarding Basra — in violation of conditions of the halt to air attacks against cities which Baghdad declared unilaterally last week.

Iran responded to the bombing halt by saying it would stop retaliatory attacks on Iraqi population centres.

The Baghdad spokesman did not say if Iraq would retaliate for the bombardment of Basra but left open the possibility that the air force would resume its attacks on Iran.

The spokesman denied an Iranian claim that two Iraqi warplanes were shot down over the Gulf, saying that all aircraft, which had been attacking Iranian troop concentrations, returned safely to base.

Iran claimed later, its forces shot down four Iraqi warplanes and broke through defences around Basra.

Iraq said its navy attacked an offshore Iranian oilfield, setting it ablaze.

The Iranian claim came amid day-long attacks by Iraqi fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships against Iranian Revolutionary Guards battling east of Basra.

Baghdad Radio, said Iraqi navy ships shelled the Al Nowruz oilfield 53 kilometres south of Iran in the northern waters of the Gulf late Monday, delivering a "destructive blow."

Baghdad military communications said Iraqi pilots flew more than 150 combat missions, inflicting massive losses on Iranian bridgehead 10 kilometres east of Basra.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said Iranian forces broke through Iraq's heavily fortified defenses east of Basra Tuesday, killing or wounding 900 Iraqis.

The Iraqi News Agency reported Iraq's 3rd and 7th army corps beat back the thrusts with heavy artillery fire and air strikes.

AIC denies Israeli charge and vows to continue work

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

An Israeli-Palestinian information centre closed last week by Israeli authorities has denied allegations it was backed by a Palestinian commando group and vowed to continue providing news.

Spokesmen for the Alternative Information Centre (AIC) told a press conference on Tuesday they feared "the closure of their offices would be used as a precedent to shut down Palestinian news organisations in Jerusalem."

"Closing a Jewish office makes it easier to close Palestinian offices later," said Lea Tsemel, the group's lawyer.

She said it was the first time Israeli authorities had used a sec-

tion of a 1948 law against an information group.

Arab shot dead

In the occupied Gaza Strip, a Palestinian was shot dead on Monday by Israeli soldiers at a roadblock. According to the Israeli police version of the incident, the man, whose identity was not disclosed, was shot dead after he tried to drive a "stolen car" through a roadblock at a checkpoint between the occupied Gaza Strip and Israel.

In a West Bank village, Israeli troops boarded up the houses of two Palestinians accused of involvement in making four bombs planted in the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv areas in 1985 and 1986.

Judge links Abdallah with attacks

PARIS (R) — Guns, explosives, documents and other evidence link Lebanese guerrilla suspect Georges Ibrahim Abdallah with attacks on U.S. and Israeli diplomats, the senior judge of France's special anti-terrorist court said Tuesday.

Court President Maurice Colombe gave a detailed account of the evidence at the start of the second day of Mr. Abdallah's trial before a seven-member tribunal sitting without a jury.

Mr. Abdallah was not present in the dock, having told the court on Monday he would boycott what he called a political tribunal imposed by the United States and its "lackeys."

Judge Colombe, reading from the charge sheet, said a search of a Paris apartment rented by Mr. Abdallah had uncovered two sub-machine-guns, explosives and a Czechoslovak-made 7.65 calibre automatic pistol used to kill U.S. Military Attaché Charles Ray and Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov in 1982.

The 35-year-old Lebanese, believed to have founded and led the Lebanese Armed Revolution-

ary Factions (FARL), faces charges of complicity in both murders and in a failed attempt on the life of American Consul-General Robert Homme in 1984.

The court also heard that police had found a map drawn by Mr. Abdallah of the area in the eastern French town of Strasbourg where Mr. Homme was shot.

Mr. Abdallah's detention sparked a wave of bombings in Paris last September by a group demanding his release. Mr. Abdallah was arrested in Lyon and on July 10 was sentenced to four years in prison for possession of arms, explosives, false documents and criminal association.

Mr. Abdallah appeared in court on the opening day only to hear the charges against him, make a political speech and leave.

Asked if he wished to make a statement, he rose towards a microphone then, in modulated tones, recited a political discourse denouncing U.S. and Israeli policies in Lebanon and the system of justice by which he was being tried.

Regan expects to stay on for several more days

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's embattled Chief of Staff Donald Regan has told presidential advisors he expects to remain in office for several more days, a government official said.

However, sources close to First Lady Nancy Reagan predicted he would leave soon because she was determined he must go.

"Regan indicated he and the president had briefly discussed the question (of reports of Mr. Regan's departure) and that they had agreed that they would talk about it again after the Tower report," said a White House official who attended a session with the two men.

Mr. Regan, under fire for his handling of the secret sale of U.S. arms to Iran, made the statement on Monday at a private meeting of a group of Reagan confidantes from in and outside the administration, the official said.

It was called to discuss how to respond to the findings of the board headed by former Senator John Tower. The presidential panel is scheduled to make its report public on Thursday, and the findings are expected to be highly critical of White House policymaking.

During a chance encounter with some reporters in a White House corridor Monday morning, Mr. Regan replied, "ain't leaving right now," when asked if he would leave the administration in the near future.

A top assistant to the gruff, 68-year-old former Wall Street executive responded with a barbed epithet when asked about those reports. Another aide told Reuters there was "no change" in Mr. Regan's status.

"I have no indication that he is leaving at all," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater when he was asked if Mr. Regan would soon resign.

At his daily news briefing, Fitzwater said Mr. Regan had not asked his top aide to quit but declined to comment on reports that Mr. Regan was no longer on speaking terms with the president's wife.

Amid a cloud of uncertainty over Regan's future, former

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. seeks more bank data in probe into Iran deal, page 2



Israeli nuclear arms can 'level all Mideast urban centres' — study

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel may have acquired enough nuclear weaponry "to level every urban centre in the Middle East" with a population of over 100,000, according to a study released Tuesday.

The report also cautions that if rebel governments take power in either South Africa or Pakistan and gain control of existing nuclear technology, the result could be "one of the gravest dangers of the next decade."

The warnings are contained in the third annual report on global nuclear proliferation by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Written by a Carnegie Associate, Leonard S. Spector, the report also discloses that the Shah of Iran, shortly before his ouster in 1979, initiated work on a nuclear weapons research programme that presumably has been inherited by the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

But Iran is still far short of a nuclear weapons capability, partly because the United States rejected the Shah's request for enough research reactor fuel to build at least one bomb, the report says. A State Department

official said he had no information about that allegation.

Mr. Spector, who has worked on nuclear issues for more than 10 years, discusses the proliferation question in apocalyptic terms.

The study, titled *Going Nuclear*, says at the outset, "like the superpowers' nuclear arsenals, the continuing spread of nuclear weapons to additional nations poses incalculable risks to the world community."

Declaring that several countries with nuclear potential are in the Middle East and South Asia, the report says the consequences of a nuclear conflict starting in either region are difficult to predict because both Moscow and Washington have major interests there.

It says "extraordinary devastation" could result even if a nuclear war were confined to a particular region.

If new estimates of Israel's

nuclear might are accurate, the study says, it now has the weaponry "to level every urban centre in the Middle East with a population of over 100,000."

That assessment is based, in part, on the disclosures of a former nuclear technician, Mordechai Vanunu, who suggested that Israel's nuclear arsenal may number 100 to 200 weapons. Vanunu is now on trial for making public secret information about the Israeli programme.

Israel's long-standing position has been not to comment on its nuclear weapons capability. It has said, however, it will not be the first country to use such weaponry.

The report says a dangerous situation is being created in South Africa and Pakistan, both "nuclear threshold nations" experiencing serious domestic unrest.

If the existing government in either country is ousted, "there is a growing risk that radical forces may gain control of nuclear weapons or the ability to manufacture them — a possibility that may pose one of the gravest dangers of the next decade," Mr. Spector writes.

The study says South Africa is thought to have possessed a nuclear-weapons capability since 1980 or 1981 but has refrained from carrying out a nuclear test to avoid damaging relations with the West.

"With these ties under increasing stress, the added diplomatic costs of a test — which would give a major boost to white morale and demonstrate resolve against external pressures for racial change — may now seem acceptable to the Botha government."

On Pakistan, the study shares the view of the administration of President Ronald Reagan that the Pakistani government may now be in a position to manufacture all necessary components for nuclear arms.

A consensus appears to have emerged that Pakistan is at the nuclear weapons threshold. It either possesses all of the components needed to manufacture one or several atom bombs or else remains just short of this goal because its uranium enrichment plant at Kahuta has not yet produced a sufficient quantity of nuclear-weapons-usable highly enriched uranium, the report says.

U.S. seeks more bank data in Iran probe

BERNE (R) — The United States has asked Switzerland to lift banking secrecy concerning 21 companies and individuals in a widening of its inquiry into arms sales to Iran, the Swiss Justice Ministry said Tuesday.

A ministry statement said Switzerland had accepted two supplements to the December request for legal assistance but said the new petitions would cause a delay in any response until the end of March while appeals were reviewed.

Ministry spokesman Joerg Kistler told Reuters that in contrast to the earlier requests, the United States had not asked Switzerland to freeze the accounts involved, only that information be made available.

The United States is looking into charges that top Reagan administration officials sold weapons to Iran and, against the will of Congress, diverted the proceeds through Swiss Bank accounts to finance right-wing "contra" rebels fighting the government of Nicaragua.

Mr. Kistler said the investigation now involved U.S., Canadian and Swiss citizens as well as two well-known arms dealers, one a Saudi national, the other an Iranian.

Swiss officials have said Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, who was fired from the U.S. National Security Council in November, and Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi are among those whose bank records were sought.

France, Spain and W. Germany reportedly sold arms to Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — Several West European countries have sold arms to Iran, a U.S. television said.

ABC News said Iran, which has been fighting Iraq for six years, spent up to \$5 billion a year on arms and sent daily lists of weapons orders to its air force logistics support centre in London.

The network said 105mm and 203mm cannon shells made by Luchaire S.A. in France had been shipped to Iran since 1983.

It said one shipment left Cherbourg on Sept. 25, 1985, on the freighter Trautenberg with the listed destination of Pakistan. But at the Canary Islands the destination was changed to Iran.

The network said other papers showed 12 shipments of explosives and arms left Spain for Iran in 1986.

Portugal refuses to allow Iran arms ship to dock

BONN (Agencies) — Portuguese authorities have refused to allow a West German ship to return there after Bonn ordered the vessel not to take its weapons cargo to Iran, West German government officials said.

Portuguese officials at the harbour of Setúbal refused to let the MS Grett unload its cargo there this week, one informed West German official said.

"There are now contacts being established to bring the ship into another Mediterranean port, perhaps in Spain," the official told AP on condition of anonymity.

"I understand the ship only has enough fuel for the next two or three days," he said.

Bonn's Transport Ministry ordered the Danish-chartered ship to turn around earlier this month after the West German Transport Union disclosed the MS Grett had left Setúbal on Feb. 6 with a load of ammunition and was headed for Iran.

West German law bans exports of arms and munitions to countries at war. The ban extends

to West German ships, even if they are sailing for third parties.

In addition, West German law requires a permit for export of arms to non-NATO countries.

The ship's cargo is artillery grenades, the West German official said. He did not know the amount on board.

He said he did not know why the Portuguese had refused to allow the ship to return there. He said the incident occurred on "late Sunday or early Monday."

Hamburg prosecutors have opened an investigation against the West German owner of the ship, Juergen Stahmer of the north West German town of Jork.

Mr. Stahmer acknowledged last week that the ship had been carrying an illegal load of weapons, and said he too had told the vessel to turn around and head for Gibraltar pending instructions on where and how to dump the arms.

The Bonn official said that under West German law the ship owners are still liable to prosecution, no matter what they do with the cargo now.

Demjanjuk defence doubts credibility of witness

TEL AVIV (AP) — The defence in the trial of John Demjanjuk on Tuesday hammered away at the memory of a death camp survivor who has identified the sadistic guard "Ivan the Terrible."

Attorney Mark O'Connor of Buffalo, N.Y., asked witness Pinchas Epstein repeatedly for minute details about the physical appearance of the guards at the Treblinka Camp and the location of pits where bodies of victims were buried.

Some 850,000 people were reportedly killed at the camp in Poland. "I know how hard it is to remember after nearly half a century," Mr. O'Connor said.

In his testimony Monday, Epstein, a survivor of the Treblinka Camp, pointed at Demjanjuk,

identifying him as the guard "Ivan the Terrible." "This is the man, the man sitting over there," he shouted.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 66, says he is a victim of mistaken identity and was himself a prisoner of war during World War II. Mr. O'Connor contends the real Ivan was killed during a prisoner uprising in August 1943.

Pointing to a layout of Treblinka displayed in the courtroom, Mr. O'Connor asked Epstein where the victims removed their clothes before going to the gas chambers.

"I really don't remember the camp very well to the extent I can locate it on this map," Epstein said.

Soviet doctor's Saudi visit seen as diplomatic harbinger

RIYADH (AP) — A visit by a famous Soviet eye surgeon was seen in Riyadh on Monday as a sign that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union may be moving closer to establishing more formal links.

Dr. S. Fyodorov, director of Moscow's eye research institute and pioneer of myopia and astigmatism surgery, is in Riyadh at the invitation of the Saudi Society for Eye Diseases to discuss his experiments in collective myopia surgery.

A number of Arab and Western diplomats said they viewed the visit as an attempt by Moscow to bridge the gap between the Soviet Union and the kingdom.

They also took the visit as an indication of Saudi Arabia's willingness to cultivate non-official ties with communist bloc.

"I'm sure the people who granted the visa see the visit as

having political overtones, however vague they might be," said one diplomat at the political section of a major Western embassy.

"We've noted that earlier this year the Saudis let the (communist) Chinese participate in a trade exposition," said the diplomat, who declined to be identified.

A U.S. diplomat, who also wished to remain anonymous, showed observing it closely," he said.

"Let's just say that we're aware of the situation and are observing it closely," he said.

Officially, Saudi Arabia spurns communism as atheistic and shuns formal ties with the Soviet Union.

King Fahd recently said that the question of opening diplomatic relations with Moscow was premature.

Turkey may hit rebels inside Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Newspapers speculated Tuesday that Turkey might launch a reprisal raid into Iraq as weeping relatives buried their dead from a massacre believed to be carried out by Kurdish guerrillas at a southeastern village.

The daily Milliyet said the insurgents were believed to have fled across the border, just five kilometres from the village of Tashelen, after attacking three homes with machineguns and grenades, killing 14 people.

It said a military operation in Iraqi territory was possible and another daily quoted an official as saying that the issue was discussed at a meeting of top government and military officials called by President Kenan Evren on Monday.

The official said a flexible accord with Baghdad permitted Turkish operations into Iraqi territory in pursuit of guerrillas.

"Since the incident happened five kilometres inside the border, the alternative of an operation was also discussed and it was decided to take a decision according to information to be received from the area," he was quoted as saying.

Turkey sent security forces deep into Iraq in 1984 in search of Kurdish rebels and in August last year the air force staged a bombing raid across the border on what it said were guerrilla camps.

Television pictures Monday night showed waiting relatives in Tashelen gathered around the bodies of the dead, which were strapped to stretchers and wrapped in traditional red blankets.

Turkish court hears tape in Ammarin case

ANKARA (R) — A military court trying a man accused of spying for Syria on Tuesday heard him say he acted against Turkish interests in a videotape which his defence says was obtained after torture.

The statement of Adnan Musa Suleiman Ammarin, a translator at the Jordanian embassy, was made last year to a television camera and was watched on video in the courtroom.

"I would like to make a sincere confession. I regret my deeds against the Turkish nation," he said, adding that he wanted to take advantage of a "repentance law" allowing a defendant's sentence to be reduced if he makes a full confession.

But his defence lawyers told the court that Ammarin's admission — he has not pleaded in the case — was obtained after he was tortured. They submitted a medical report from a military hospital which they said confirmed torture.

Ammarin and Ali Kent, a Turk of Iranian origin, are charged with gathering information for Syria about military facilities and the location of U.S. installations in Turkey.

U.S. panel discusses Egyptian aid, probes reported plan to attack Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opposition Democratic congressmen eager to praise the State Department for blocking a suggested U.S.-Egyptian invasion of Libya in 1985 found the department modestly declining knowledge of such an affair.

"The question is, did the department act to try to head off such a plan?" Congressman Lee H. Hamilton demanded of Roscoe Suddarth, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Near East and South Asia.

"Tell the secretary of state I'd like to know ... If you took extraordinary steps, I want to commend you for it. I want you to get a little credit for it," said Mr. Hamilton, the chairman of the 'House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

The reported invasion plan "was a hare-brained (crazy) idea ... to the extent you folks opposed it I'm all for you," Mr. Hamilton said at a Monday session of the subcommittee.

"I'm appalled that such a plan would be considered so seriously that it would be necessary for the State Department to bring back the ambassador from Egypt to oppose it," said Mr. Hamilton.

He quoted extensively from a story in the Feb. 20 Washington Post. That article said Ambassador Nicholas A. Veliotis was summoned home from Egypt in the summer of 1985 to help Secretary of State George Shultz resist a White House-CIA plan for U.S.-supported Egyptian troops to occupy half of Libya

and force Col. Muammar Qadhafi from power.

Mr. Suddarth replied to questioning by Mr. Hamilton and fellow Democrat Mel Levine, by citing a White House statement that there had been no presidential directive for such an operation. He added he personally was "not cognisant" of any.

"Where do we go if you folks who apparently were the major actors here don't tell us?" Mr. Hamilton asked. "I'm just amazed you can't give us some information."

Mr. Suddarth told Mr. Hamilton he would inform the department of his interest. He said it had been "a long snowy weekend" since the news report appeared and added, in response to Mr. Levine, that the department might be able to say more in a closed session.

The exchange came at a hearing on the proposed \$2.3-billion U.S. economic and military aid package for Egypt for fiscal 1988. Discussing the \$1.3 billion in military aid, Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert H. Pelletreau said Libya's threat to Egypt is "a significant one."

He said the Libyans have "clear equipment advantages in several important categories" including aircraft, artillery, naval equipment and tanks.

Since the United States displaced the Soviet Union as Egypt's main military supply source 15 years ago, Egyptian military forces are becoming more capable and acquiring better equipment but at the same

time growing smaller in size because of the high cost of modernisation, Mr. Pelletreau said.

"In some areas, progress is very good, in others, just starting," he said.

The current package covers startup costs for a planned squadron for Egypt of 20 F-16 jets, E-2C aircraft, M113 armoured personnel carriers and Chaparral air defence systems, he said. The Egyptians may keep the F-4 planes at one time slated for resale to Turkey, he said.

Mr. Pelletreau described plans for Egyptian-U.S. co-production of the M-1 tank as "a feasible objective over gradually a long period of time, not really in the near term."

An American short-term fiscal relief offer to let Egypt to defer part of the interest on U.S. military loans "remains on the table," Mr. Suddarth said. He said the Egyptian government has voiced reservations because of the large "balloon" payment that would come due at the end of 30 years.

U.S.-Egyptian relations are good even though Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has criticised American arms sales to Iran as costing the United States credibility in the Middle East, Mr. Suddarth said. Nevertheless, contacts with Mr. Mubarak's government remain close and Cairo is making "very forceful efforts in the economic reform area."

Mr. Hamilton criticised earmarking of \$180 million in the aid package for U.S. surplus farm products, a reduction of \$5 million from the current level.

Farouqi murder suspect arraigned

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The suspect in the murders of Islamic scholar Isma'il Farouqi and his wife Lois has been arraigned and is expected to come up for trial in the next two months, according to the police official in charge of the investigation.

Police Lieutenant Robert C. Krauser of the Philadelphia suburb of Cheltenham Township said that the suspect — 40-year-old Joseph L. Young who is also known by his Muslim name of Yusuf Ali — was arraigned before a district judge Feb. 20, and ordered to be held without bail at the Montgomery County prison.

The charges against Young included murder, manslaughter, assault and burglary. The district judge, Loretta Leader, "upheld all charges except that of robbery" according to the police lieutenant. Although no date was set for the trial, Krauser said he believes it will take place "in a couple of months."

Young confessed to the police after his arrest Jan. 16 at the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Centre, where he had been in custody since Oct. 26 on a charge of shooting and wounding his former wife. His fingerprints matched the bloody prints found in the Farouqi's home on the morning of the murders, May 27, according to authorities.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
21:00	Evening Show Continued
22:00	News Summary
23:00	Evening Show Continued
23:57	News Headlines
24:00	Close Down
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
6:59	720, 123 KHz
06:00	Newsdesk, 06:30 A Corowold
06:30	Carpeted 06:30 Book, Choice 06:45
06:45	Reflections 06:50 Financial News 07:00
07:00	World News 07:30 24 Hours: News
07:30	Summary 07:30 Report on Religion
07:45	The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk
08:00	08:30 Meridian 09:00 World News
09:00	09:24 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30
09:30	Development 10:10 World News 10:15
10:15	Reflections 10:15 Classical Review
10:30	10:30 Quota Uniquet
11:00	11:00 World News 11:00 British Press
11:15	Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30
11:30	Financial News: Look Ahead 11:45
11:45	Patrick Martin's Music Box 12:00
12:00	News Summary 12:30 My World 12:30
12:30	World News 12:30 News About Britain 13:15 A Corowold
13:15	Carpeted 13:25 A Letter from Wales
13:30	13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsdesk
14:00	14:15 Masterpiece in Miniature 14:25
14:25	The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up
14:45	15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30
15:30	Development 16:00 World News 16:05
16:05	Reflections 16:15 Classical Review
16:30	16:30 Quota Uniquet 17:00 World News 17:15
17:15	A Music of World 17:30 Aliter Henry 18:00 World
18:00	News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Radio
18:15	Sat 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09
19:09	A Letter from Wales 19:15 Technologies for the 21st
19:15	Century 19:30 News 19:30 Book Choice 19:50 Sports Round-up 20:00
20:00	Newsdesk 20:45 International Soccer Special 23:45 Soccer Cont.
VOICE OF AMERICA	
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 965, 11740	
11:25	11:25 and 12:10 Hz
05:00	News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA
05:30	Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline
06:10	06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10
07:10	Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00
08:00	News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA
08:30	Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline
17:10	17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10
18:10	Focus 18:30 Special English News &
18:30	Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline
19:10	19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News
20:00	20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English
20:30	News & Features 21:00 News 21:10
21:10	Worldline America 21:30 Music USA
21:30	Jazz 22:00 News & Editorial 22:15
22:15	21:00 Evening Show Cont.
21:55	21:55 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition entitled "Bazilian" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).	
* An exhibition of sports photographs by Soviet photographer Igor Otkun from TASS news agency at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Feb. 26).	
* An art exhibition by Mohammed Al-Husseini and Munir Al-Tunisi at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.	
* An exhibition of plastic arts marking the University of Jordan's silver jubilee at the university (until March 4).	
LECTURE	
* By Dr. Mohammad Ajo (from Istanbul University) on "the importance of Arabic language in the Ottoman era" at 12:00 noon at the Faculty of Art at the University of Jordan.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdib, Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757.	
Ternanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Lubdib, most in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622365.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 678906.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 675354.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel. 6610267	
American Centre ... 641520	
British Council ... 636478	
French Cultural Centre ... 637009	
Goethe Institute ... 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre ... 642003	
Spanish Cultural Centre ... 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 639777	
Hoya Arts Centre ... 665195	
Y.W.C.A. ... 667181	
Y.W.M.C.A. ... 664793	
Armenian Municipal Library ... 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library ... 843555	
MUSEUMS	
* "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madinet and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 61760.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:47	Pair
06:06	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:49	Dhuhr
15:42	'Asr
17:31	Jeddah
18:59	'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (02) 520-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00	Agaba (RJ)
09:20	Cairo (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:00	Kuwait (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:20	Bangkok (RJ)
17:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
18:35	London, Geneva (RJ)
18:45	Bahrein (RJ)
19:15	Madrid, Belgrade (RJ)
01:00	Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

07:45	Karachi (FK)
09:30	Sana'a (TY)
11:35	Cairo (MS)
12:50	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (FK)
13:45	Kuwait (KU)
14:05	Tripoli (LN)
15:10	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
17:45	Asiana, Damascus (OA)
18:15	Baghdad (LA)
18:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:30	Damascus (TY)
22:30	Baghdad (LA)
23:05	Tripoli, Damascus (FK)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45	Agaba (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:00	London (RJ)
13:30	Chiro (RJ)
20:30	Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
21:00	Baghdad (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (RJ)
21:15	Cairo (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:20	Frankfurt (LH)
08:05	Cairo, London (BA)
08:45	Damascus, Tripoli (PK)
10:15	Damascus, Rome (AZ)
10:30	Damascus (TY)
12:20	Chiro (MS)
12:45	Larissa, Zurich (SR)
14:00	Doha, Muscat (GF)
15:00	Kuwait (KU)
15:45	Kuwait (LN)
16:00	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
19:30	Baghdad (LA)
20:30	Sana'a (TY)
23:30	Rio de Janeiro (LA)
00:05	Karachi (FK)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Weekly rates

Local sell/buy rates in fms	
Belgian franc	89/ 89.9
Dutch guilder	84.3/ 164.9
French franc	55.4/ 56
Italian lire	26/ 26.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	220.7/ 222.9
Swedish crown	52.1/ 52.7
Swiss franc	218.1/ 220.8
U.S. sterling pound	52.1/ 528.3
U.S. dollar	339.5/ 342.2
W. German mark	184.3/ 186.5

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively cold, with the appearance of medium and high clouds. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	4/14
Agaba	11/25
Deserts	4/16
Jordan Valley	9/24

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 21, Agaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Agaba 17 per cent.

Vienna joins express delivery service; post offices to forward CSC applications

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's 24-hour mail delivery service will have a new connection to Vienna, operational as of March 1, Mr. Mansour Ibn Tarif, under secretary at the Communications Ministry, announced on Tuesday. In an interview at the ministry's new JD 2.5 million premises near the Eighth Circle, Mr. Ibn Tarif said that negotiations on the express mail link between Jordan and Austria were concluded recently.

The ministry's express mail service, launched last July, covers 19 Arab and foreign destinations. The Amman-Vienna link will be the service's 20th destination. Outlining the major factors governing the fast mail service between Jordan and other countries, Mr. Ibn Tarif said they were: the volume of mail, protocol agreements and other countries' response to the ministry's requests.

The Ministry of Communications also announced that as of March 7 a total of 24 post offices throughout the Kingdom will start forwarding applications for

employment to the Civil Service Commission (CSC), according to an agreement signed here on Tuesday.

Under the agreement, signed by Mr. Ibn Tarif and CSC Director General Ibrahim Izzeddine, applications for employment will be available at certain post offices in Jordan to be filled out by candidates and sent to the CSC for processing.

The 24 post offices handling the new service are located in Amman downtown, Jabal Luweibdeh, Marqah, Bayader, Wadi Seer, Irbid, Zarqa, Salt, Aqaba, Ajloun, South Shuneh, Mafragh, Deir Abi Said, Jabal Amman, Ashrafieh, Jabal Al Hussein, Al Muhajereen, Karak, Ma'an, Tafleh, Jerash, Madaba, North Shuneh, Ramtha and Sweileh.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the service was oriented towards making life easier for applicants who would no longer have to come in person to the CSC headquarters. The decision, Petra said, came in response to previous Cabinet recommendations.

Post office employees are responsible for ensuring that the applicant's needed documents are

all available. They are also entrusted with sealing the envelope and providing the applicants with a receipt. The receipt is to be used as an official document in case the applicants need to call at the CSC for any future inquiry.

Under the agreement, rates for processing the applications will not differ from the fees paid to send any regular correspondence via registered mail. The central post office in the downtown area will be responsible for handling all applications it receives to the CSC on daily basis.

During the signing ceremony held at the Communications Ministry, both Mr. Izzeddine and Mr. Ibn Tarif urged all post office employees to cooperate with all job applicants.

Post offices in Jordan now handle applications for registration at the Kingdom's three universities, civil registration documents, renewing vehicle licences, handling official mail, and certifying university and school documents.

According to the postal service law, the ministry has the right to offer services on behalf any public or private institution, provided it is instructed to do so by a Cabinet order.

Work permits for non-Arabs to cost JD 150 as of today

AMMAN (J.T.) — All non-Arab workers employed in Jordan will have to pay JD 150 each for their work permits as of today Feb. 25, 1987, according to an order issued by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

The order exempted nurses and workers employed in agriculture from paying the new fee. The new system scraps the previous categories for non-Arab workers who paid JD 50, 100 or 150 depending on their job classification.

According to Dr. Saleh Khasawneh, under secretary of the Ministry of Labour, the order also covers all domestic servants.

Dr. Khasawneh told the Jordan Times that the order does not affect the fees paid by non-Jordanian Arab workers who will continue to pay between JD 10 and JD 30 for their work permits. Only Arab workers employed in agriculture are paying JD 10 for the permits, he noted.

The Ministry of Labour's employment offices around the Kingdom issue work permits to Arab and foreign workers for jobs which cannot be filled by Jordanians, according to Dr. Mansour Utom, the director of labour at the Ministry of Labour. The present number of non-Jordanian workers in the Kingdom stands at 97,000, according to ministry figures.

Jordanian products go on display at fair in Oman

MUSCAT (Petra) — The Jordanian industrial fair was opened in Muscat on Tuesday by Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Al Ghazali who welcomed the organisation of the fair which, he said, is bound to bolster inter-Arab trade and economic cooperation. The minister said that the products on display were of a high quality and could replace foreign products in Arab markets.

More than 65 Jordanian businesses and companies are participating in the fair which is selling products directly to the Omani public and merchants. The Ministry of Industry and Trade organised the fair in cooperation with the Tourism Authority which is also displaying documentaries and posters featuring Jordanian tourist attractions and organising folklore performances during the 10-day fair.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colder, wet weather forecast for today

AMMAN (Petra) — A deep depression centred south west of Turkey is gradually approaching Jordan and the Arab region, accompanied by a cold polar front, Dr. Ali Abanda, director general of the Meteorological Department announced on Tuesday. He said that the depression is expected to affect Jordan after midnight bringing heavy rains and a strong wind. The rains will fall mainly in the western and the northern regions of the country as of Wednesday morning, gradually spreading to other parts of the Kingdom. Dr. Abanda continued. He said that there will be a noticeable drop in temperature and that the wind will be westerly to southwesterly.

Envoy to Malta presents credentials

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Malta, Mr. Talal Sata'an Al Hassan, has presented his credentials to Malta's president and conveyed to him greetings from His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Al Hassan, who is Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia, also paid tribute to Jordanian-Maltese relations and conveyed wishes for Malta's prosperity. The Maltese president asked Mr. Al Hassan to convey his greetings and best wishes to King Hussein.

N. Yemeni electricity delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the electricity authority in North Yemen arrived in Amman Tuesday for a visit and talks with Jordanian officials on promoting cooperation in energy and electricity. The delegation members will be holding meetings with officials and specialists at the Jordan-Electricity Authority (JEA) to discuss the possibility of supplying North Yemen with Jordanian expertise, especially in computers used to control the generation and distribution of electric power.

Department issues study on wind to generate electricity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The department of renewable energy at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has issued a study on the prospect of exploiting wind power as a source to generate electricity in Jordan.

The study explains that energy could be obtained from the use of wind fans in a number of regions in the Kingdom and it calculates the amount of electricity which could be produced and the cost.

Regan expects to stay on

(Continued from page 1)

Nevada Senator Paul Laxalt, who is one of the president's closest friends, made an unscheduled visit to the White House on Monday.

Mr. Laxalt, who has been mentioned as a possible successor to Mr. Reagan, told reporters he had come for a strategy meeting on how to handle the Tower Commission report.

Mr. Fitzwater predicted that recent news stories which have purportedly revealed the content of that report would be shown to be "fiction" when the report is released.

Major newspapers have reported that the National Security Council (NSC) staff, which hatched the secret Iran operation, also inspired several other far-reaching foreign policy initiatives.

"There have been a lot of stories that have maintained that they know what in the report, maintained one conclusion or another, and I think that you'll see a lot of them are fiction," Fitzwater said.

He told reporters that no one in the White House had seen the report or received a first-hand briefing on it.

Fitzwater also declined comment on a report that a former secretary was told investigators she helped Oliver North alter and destroy large numbers of White House documents dealing with the Iran scandal.

The Ministry of Energy has already started implementing a project to generate electricity from wind in cooperation with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and Danish consultancy firm.

Electricity generated in this manner is to be used in remote regions where it is difficult to extend power lines and in rural regions to pump water from underground.

Palestine question is focus of Jordan's policy, Regent tells staff and students at Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — The Palestine question remains the focal point in Jordanian policy and Jordan is doing all it can to help the Palestinians and their just cause, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said on Tuesday.

Addressing a meeting at Yarmouk University, Prince Hassan said that Jordan is exerting all possible efforts to maintain the Arab identity in the Israeli-held Arab territory, and is supporting the steadfastness of the Arab population in the face of Israel's plans which are designed to evict Arab citizens and Judaize Arab Land in Palestine.

Prince Hassan said that the leadership and government of Jordan are constantly undertaking endeavours to serve the nation and the Jordanian citizens.

Prince Hassan told his audience, which included the university president, deans of various faculties, staff and students of different departments, that the



University should aim at providing information and should at the same time encourage open and

free dialogue and foster mutual respect among teachers and students.

"We have to respect one another, regardless of the differences in views and the divergent ideas that we might have, and we ought to be candid, open and constructive so that all elements of division and backwardness can be avoided," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that the university will organise more dialogues and gatherings which could further promote development.

The value of individuals could be enhanced if they offer their work to their countrymen and if they show a sense of belonging to the nation, the Regent added.

He called on students at the Faculty of Journalism and the communications department to focus their attention on the subject they are studying and on ideas throughout their work and study.

Bar association planning training institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) is making preparations for establishing a special institute to offer training to newly-graduated lawyers, according to JBA President Hussein Mujalli. He said that the institute is designed to improve the skill and efficiency of lawyers by offering them two-year training courses.

Mr. Mujalli said that the institute will not replace the training period which each lawyer has to spend at lawyers' offices in accordance with Jordanian law and JBA regulations. But, he said, the institute would offer further training to raise the standards of lawyers in Jordan and to provide them with more information about their work. The lawyers under training will be hearing lectures during the two-year period after obtaining their B.A. degrees from law schools.

ALTF recommends formation of Arab-int'l land transport company

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Arab Land Transport Federation (ALTF) is seeking to establish an Arab international land transport company and will submit a memorandum to the Arab Ministers of Transport Council to issue a decision for its formation, according to Mr. Abdullah Dumour, ALTF's secretary general.

He said that the decision was taken in Sana'a during the assembly's sessions there last week. The ALTF also recommended that a seminar be held in Baghdad to discuss the importance of land transport in war and peace time and discussed organising training programmes for Arab personnel on the economics of land transport.

According to Mr. Dumour, the assembly also recommended that the ALTF hold contacts with the Arab industrial engineering federation on the subject of establishing industries to manufacture spare parts for land transport vehicles. The assembly also discussed a general budget and work plan for the current year.

Designs underway for new Ministry of Health complex

AMMAN (J.T.) — Designs are being prepared for a new headquarters to house the Health Ministry on a plot of land near the Sports City. A spokesman for the ministry said that the project, expected to cost JD 3 million, will set up on 8,000 square metres, adding that work will start in the coming two months. The new complex will house all the different health departments in the capital, including the ministry's laboratories, the primary health

care department, the pharmacy department, and the Higher Health Council, the spokesman continued.

He said that the Health Ministry is now paying JD 120,000 in annual rent for these departments and said this amount would be saved once the new complex has been completed. The site of the new complex can be reached easily from different parts of the capital, he noted.

Efforts continuing to upgrade primary and secondary medical care, Hamzeh says

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan is exerting efforts to provide basic health care for all citizens and to upgrade primary and secondary health services to meet international standards, according to Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

Dr. Hamzeh, speaking in a lecture entitled "health as a right for every citizen," said that Jordan is considered as one of the most advanced Third World countries in terms of providing basic health care, which, he said, should be a government responsibility. Based on the concept "prevention is better than cure," Jordan has over the years given due concern to providing citizens with the eight basic elements of health care. The factors include providing people with potable water, mother and child care centres, vaccinations and public awareness campaigns against communicable diseases as well as all types of drugs and medications, he said.

Jordan also plans to introduce a comprehensive national health insurance system, Dr. Hamzeh said, adding that a preliminary study on the project is currently underway.

The health coverage for all citizens will be a fully-fledged

private sector project with no contribution whatsoever by the government which is already burdened with providing primary and secondary health care for the public, said Dr. Hamzeh who delivered his lecture at the Marriott Hotel.

Private sector medical insurance

Dr. Hamzeh said that 3,000 private sector concerns, grouping some one million people, could join. He said that economists are currently studying the prospects of introducing what he termed as "a third fund" as the basis for the system. All member organisations would contribute to the fund each in accordance with its capabilities, thereby, small concerns would be treated on the same footing as big enterprises, the minister said in his lecture which was hosted by the Amman Lions Club. The third fund would support the services currently provided by the Health Ministry and the Armed Forces.

Answering questions at the end of the lecture, Dr. Hamzeh acknowledged that his ministry lacked the incentives system to lure specialised doctors to join the ministry's staff.

Dr. Hamzeh defended charges by former minister of finance Mohammad Dabbas that potable water in general and especially in Irbid is unhealthy. I. agree that Irbid's water source, which is the only one available now, is murky but that does not mean that the water is contaminated," the minister said. Most people in Irbid boil the water before drinking it.

In reply to a question, Dr. Hamzeh refuted claims that Jordan needed a new centre for cancer patients and asserted that his ministry has obtained all the necessary equipment and expertise to treat cancer cases.

Dr. Hamzeh was referring to the projected JD 8 million Amal cancer centre which was recently suspended by the Higher Health Council. The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) had lobbied to set up the centre and collected part of its capital in the process. Dr. Hamzeh said that his ministry needed only cancer rehabilitation centres since it had all the facilities for cancer treatment, including a newly-purchased linear accelerator.

The minister said that the government was contemplating easing pressure on the Health Ministry hospitals, which are overcrowded with patients, by referring patients to private hospitals.

Jordan hails EC endorsement

(Continued from page 1)

community's weight to international efforts towards finding a lasting solution to the Palestinian problem, implicitly accepted that the Soviet Union, which had so far been left out of U.S.-led peace efforts, would play a major role.

And as if to underline the Soviet involvement, Mr. Tindemans disclosed on Monday at a press conference after the Brussels meeting that he had received a message from the Soviet government outlining its own support for the conference idea.

Mr. Tindemans said it was the first direct contact between Moscow and the EC over an international political issue. Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti said the letter had come from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Tindemans said he was advising the Soviet government through the Soviet embassy to Belgium of the EC decision.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told reporters after the meeting that the EC had not drawn up a blueprint for resolving the Middle East's problems, which could only be tackled by the peoples of the region themselves.

Mr. Howe and Mr. Tindemans would not be drawn on whether the EC was trying to replace the U.S. as a prime mover in the Middle East. But Mr. Tindemans said last month that the loss of U.S. credibility in the region following the disclosure of secret arms deals between Washington and Tehran necessitated a review of the EC's previously passive attitude to peace moves in the region.

In Washington, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said Monday resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations and eased emigration regulations

for Soviet Jews were "the price of admission" Washington wanted to charge Moscow to take part in an international conference on the Middle East.

"If they move, they could change the whole equation. The Soviet Union has in its hands the ability to change things rather quickly," Mr. Murphy told a State Department press conference.

But Mr. Murphy, the department's senior Middle East expert, said:

"We haven't seen any real evidence of Soviet willingness to

Peres' Cairo visit sparks row

(Continued from page 1)

empowered by the coalition government to commit Israel to attend such a conference.

Mr. Shamir was also quoted by the daily Jerusalem Post as saying "It could be" when asked if the conference issue could force a breakup of the coalition between his right-wing Likud bloc and Mr. Peres' Labour Party.

In remarks broadcast on Israel Radio, Mr. Peres expressed surprise at Mr. Shamir's strong statements to the conference which he endorsed as prime minister before turning over the post to Mr. Shamir last October.

"If someone thinks these (negotiations) could bring about the collapse of the government, he should have said so in the beginning," Mr. Peres said on the radio.

A Shamir aide said that despite Mr. Peres' efforts, the Egyptians and other partners realised that as long as the Israeli government did not collectively approve a conference, there would be no conference.

Foreign ministry officials declined to discuss details of Mr. Peres' planned talks in Egypt but said there were still disagree-

play a constructive role in the political process of bringing peace.

"One evidence of that would be restoring diplomatic relations with Israel. Another would be allowing the emigration of Soviet Jewry," he said.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Kibbi told a meeting of the Arab-German society that the Arab League was happy with the Brussels declaration of the EC and it was now the common task of Arab and European countries to transform intentions into reality.

ments over Soviet and Palestinian participation, and the duration of a conference.

A foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that 10 points of agreement about an international conference had crystallised.

The official said there was agreement that the conference would not impose a settlement or veto agreements made in bilateral talks between Israel and individual Arab states.

The official said it was also agreed that decisions on who would represent the Palestinians, which nations would attend and how the conference would be run would all be made in advance.

The official said three issues remained outstanding and would likely to be tackled in the Cairo talks. They were: the conditions for Soviet participation, the form of Palestinian representation and the question of whether the conference will convene again after an opening session to launch negotiations.

He reiterated that the Soviet Union and China would have to establish diplomatic relations before Israel would agree to their participation.

Intercontinental Hotel awards prizes for 'win a ticket competition'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Awards and prizes were distributed Monday to winners of the "Win a Ticket Competition" at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The contest was organised by the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian, Jordan's national airline.

At the ceremony, the hotel's general manager Mr. Gabriel Khawam delivered a speech in which he expressed appreciation to all the winners for their continued support for the hotel. The winners were all Jordanian businessmen and directors of Jordanian companies.

Mr. Khawam also thanked Royal Jordanian for its support to such activities.

Mr. Khawam concluded his



speech by saying that the management of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel will continue to seek to offer the best services to its

guests, businessmen and tourists alike, with a view to projecting a bright image for this hospitable country.

Jordan Times

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EC's positive step

THE European Community's statement on the Middle East, which strongly supported the idea of holding an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem, is a victory not only for common sense but also for every sincere effort to reach peace in this region. By voting for the idea of the conference, the Twelve European countries have given a new and much needed momentum to the search for a Middle East settlement, and as such we expect their step to contribute a great deal to moving the peace process forward.

Europe's involvement in Middle Eastern politics and its role in the search for a settlement has always been an important factor in Arab thinking and strategy in pursuit of honourable and just peace. Jordan, in particular, has spearheaded concerted and continuous Arab efforts to get more European involvement in the area, and the Brussels statement has to be seen as a victory for Jordanian diplomacy in this respect.

Europe's role is very important, we have always thought, not simply because the continent's history and geography have always been closely intertwined with ours. Nor is Western Europe important merely because we have mutual security concerns and cultural outlooks. The EC countries are also important because they are close allies of the U.S. and they also have friendly relations with Israel. In this capacity they can influence both, and their participation in any peace process, no matter how modest, can make this process more meaningful and solid.

This is why we in the Arab World, particularly here in Jordan, have to welcome the Brussels declaration on the proposed international conference.

We do see in this declaration a very positive move that could make a serious and encouraging contribution to the search for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. Based on this, we urge all Arab countries not to let the opportunity slip on a follow-up to this important step. The Arab World has now got to show more seriousness in its relations with the international community — friends and foes alike. We can perhaps make a new start; first by making it clear to the Europeans that we appreciate their support for our proposal on the international conference; and second by working hard at closing our own ranks in preparation for a serious quest to achieve peace and prosperity in this part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: An end to terror

THE deployment of Syrian troops and tanks inside the Lebanese capital should not be a question for debate as these troops and the tanks are badly needed to put an end to the tragedy of the Lebanese people. The alternative is leaving the streets for the terrorists and the militia groups who have been maintaining a reign of terror over the Lebanese capital and its residents. The Syrian troops were essential therefore to stop further bloodshed and to halt the continued fighting among the factions and militia groups; and above all, to stop the drive towards breaking up the country and liquidating the Lebanese nation. The arrival of troops in Beirut was warranted by the continued deterioration in the economic and political life of Lebanon and when the nation has been driven to the verge of total collapse. Beirut which stood firm in the face of the Israeli invaders has been suffering at the hands of the warring factions and the armed groups that roamed its streets, killing innocent civilians. We regard the entry of troops and their deployment as the first step towards ending the tragedy of the Lebanese people who have been deprived of decent life and security for so long, and whose national economy has been dealt a devastating blow. The Lebanese people welcomed the Syrian army because it can help them re-establish normal life after all militia groups disappear from the streets of their cities.

Al Dustour: EC assumes role

THE European Community's foreign ministers issued a statement in Brussels on Monday voicing their total support for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. The ministers also said that their countries will be willing to play a meaningful role in such a conference through their influence over the concerned parties or in taking part in negotiations and contacts with the Arabs and the Israelis. The new statement lends further credence to the community's Venice Declaration of 1980 in which the European countries reiterated their support for international guarantees for lasting settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. The re-affirmation of the European countries' commitment to support international efforts for the achievement of peace should be regarded as a success for the Arab countries' view. The new declaration in Brussels reflects the importance of Europe's role in and responsibility towards peace in the Arab region in view of that continent's proximity to the Arab region and the long historic and cultural relations between the two sides. We appreciate the European Community's stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli question, and hope that the Arab countries will now take proper steps to enable the Europeans play their part and help them convene an international conference where all the concerned parties and major powers of the world can help draw up a formula for a lasting peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Europe backs peace

THE European Community has come out in support of the proposed international conference on the Middle East calling on all concerned parties and major powers to share in the responsibility of re-establishing peace in the region. These European countries have thus displayed their backing for the views of many other world nations including the Arab and Islamic countries. Europe has thus opted to back a settlement that can guarantee the return of Arab rights and lands in implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. This declaration coming out of Brussels is a gain for the Arab countries and a new move giving a further impetus to the peace process which Israel has fought hard to abort. The European stand represents a new turning point and a clear departure from past attitudes which favoured American policies and Washington's stand. The European support for the Arab Nation's view on the Middle East question came as a direct result of King Hussein's on-going endeavours and his talks with European leaders.

Philippines celebrates first anniversary of people's power revolution

By Juan V. Saez

The writer is the Philippines ambassador to Jordan

ON WEDNESDAY Feb. 25, the Filipino people celebrate the first anniversary of the people's power revolution in the Philippines and the election to office of President Corason Aquino.

Many of you might have seen those momentous events in the Philippines a year ago as they unfolded on your television screens. I'm sure you will remember the moving sight of men and women, children, priests and nuns, arm in arm, holding only Bibles and flowers. They marched and prayed as they confronted the tanks — the military might of a dictator.

You will also recall that not a single shot was fired. President Marcos fled the country and a courageous housewife became the president of 55 million Filipinos. It was indeed one of our finest hours. We have regained our freedom and pride as a people, after 14 years of the nightmare that was martial law.

As you know, those fairy-tale

like events have won the applause and admiration of the whole world. The rest is history. This month we have just approved overwhelmingly, in a referendum, a new constitution. We now also have an independent judiciary and a free press. And in May this year, we shall elect our new legislators. By then we shall have in place all the major institutions of democracy.

Modesty aside, I think the world will long remember what the Filipinos accomplished in those eventful days of February 1986. It was a victory of peace over violence, a victory of democracy over despotism. But in a broader sense, it was not only the victory of the Filipinos alone; it was also the victory of freedom-loving peoples everywhere. It is a truism that wherever freedom and democracy win, the rest of the world, who value freedom and democracy, also win.

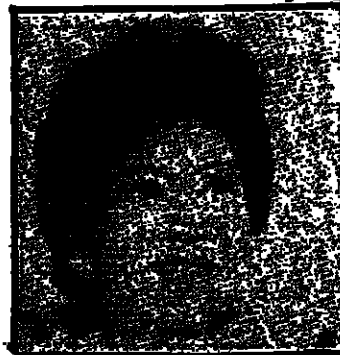
We still have tremendous problems to overcome. For example, in the economic field. But the leading economic indicators last quarter give us reason to be optimistic this year.

It is unfortunate that the cease-fire agreement between the government and Communist rebels has broken down. But the government is trying to negotiate peace with the rebels at the regional level because of the refusal of their leaders to resume talks with the government.

The government is also optimistic that it can reach an agreement with the mainstream Muslim groups in the Philippines.

But whatever future course our government might take, President Aquino has earned her place under the sun, in the hearts of freedom lovers everywhere. She has proved that in this day and age a revolution can succeed through peaceful means.

Mr. Saez obtained his Master of Letters degree from Oxford University, England, where he also studied economics. He also finished Foreign Service at the London School of Economics and was a Fellow at Harvard University. A career diplomat, he has served in London, Geneva, Bern, Prague, Belgrade and Sofia.



President Corason Aquino



Ambassador Juan V. Saez

Bangladesh ruler looks set to keep office

By Anis Ahmed

Reuters

DHAKA — President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has ruled Bangladesh for nearly five years and even some of his enemies say he looks set to remain in power through the rest of the decade.

The general-turned-politician ended four-and-a-half years of martial law last November and became a civilian president, having won an election the previous month boycotted by the main opposition parties which charged the poll was rigged.

He secured passage in parliament of a law legitimising his military rule and was sworn in for a five-year term.

None of the former presidents of this impoverished nation of 100 million people completed their terms. Two fell to assassins' bullets including Ershad's immediate predecessor, General Zia Ur Rahman, who was swept into power in a popular military uprising in November 1975, and survived nearly 20 coup attempts before he was killed in 1981.

Ershad himself took power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and has steadily consolidated his power domestically. He also has pursued policies favoured by the country's foreign aid donors and lenders and improved relations

with South Asian neighbours.

Diplomats in Dhaka note Ershad has been careful to keep good relations with the country's powerful military, promising them a role in government, and has yet to face a coup.

"Besides, Ershad is a shrewd navigator in the turbulent Bangladeshi politics. He has outwitted most of his opponents and taken the wind out of their sails," one Asian diplomat told Reuters.

Recently, he was faced with a half-day general strike called by opposition parties and trade unions to support a campaign for his resignation.

Diplomats said Ershad shrewdly refused to be provoked, kept police under control and deprived his opponents of their expected confrontation.

He also has benefited greatly from a bitter rift in the opposition which has split into two rival alliances, one headed by Zia's widow and the other by the daughter of the country's assassinated first president.

The latter is Sheikh Hasina — daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the country's founding father — who heads the largest opposition party, the Awami League. Hasina participated in the May parliamentary elections boycotted by other opposition groups but accused Ershad's

Jatiya Party of rigging the vote.

Diplomats, however, say Ershad's most implacable foe is Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Said one diplomat: "The white-clad lady with the distinct touch of personality and a generally sad-looking face is Ershad's worst worry."

Khaleda calls Ershad "the greatest autocrat who does not have the minimum respect for people or democracy," and calls persistently for him to be overthrown.

"It is high time that all people rise against Ershad and throw him into the dustbin of history," she said after police arrested her in January for holding an illegal anti-government demonstration.

Opposition sources told Reuters that Ershad even offered Khaleda a high post in his government but was rebuffed.

Khaleda has accused Hasina of betraying the anti-Ershad movement by taking part in the parliamentary elections while Hasina has said Khaleda helped Ershad by boycotting the poll.

"Ershad has consolidated his power thanks to squabbles between the two ladies and, like it or not, he is set to stay in the saddle for years to come," said Muzaffar Ahmed, leader of the

National Awami Party and staunch Ershad opponent.

He faces continued opposition from the country's restive students who have often taken to the streets to oppose his government and policies.

Recently, two students were killed in bomb blasts in Chittagong, the country's largest port, and another was shot dead by police in a northern town during protests against higher bus fares.

"Students have played a key role in all political movements in this part of the subcontinent and it would be foolish to try to shut them out all together," said former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Shamsul Haque.

Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries with only \$131 annual per capita income. It depends on overseas donors and creditors for nearly 80 per cent of its annual development budget and imports, and Ershad has been careful to accommodate its donor countries and the international organisations.

"We are happy with Ershad because he listens to us. He has devalued currency, withdrawn subsidies from fertilisers and food, raised public utility rates and launched a privatisation campaign," one U.S. official told reporters recently.

Brunei's Chinese have little to celebrate

By Ho Wah Foon

Reuters

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — Tay Ah Choo and her family, who are among some 50,000 Chinese in Brunei, are paying little heed to the sultanate's third independence celebrations to be held on February 23.

"What is there to cheer about ... my husband and I have been here over 25 years, yet we are still non-citizens ... independence does not mean anything to us," the China-born shoe-seller told Reuters.

"Even my children who were born here are stateless ... they have to come back every year from their studies abroad to renew their visas," she said with bitterness.

Tay and her husband failed a stringent Malay language test required of those who apply for citizenship after residing for at least 25 years in this former British protectorate.

Citizenship remains a sensitive issue in the oil-rich state despite independence gained on January 1, 1984, and the local Chinese chamber of commerce has declined to discuss it.

Only 10 per cent of the Chinese, who dominate trade and commerce, are citizens among the Malay-majority 230,000 people in Brunei, diplomats and bankers said.

Many emigrated to Canada and Australia for jobs and investments after the two countries relaxed their immigration policies, diplomats said.

Embassy figures show that 155 families moved to Canada last year, three times the number registered in 1985, and that 2,588 families enquired about immigration to Australia.

Official comment was unavailable.

The rest of the nation appears contented and braced to join independence celebrations that will feature colourful parades, cultural shows and exhibitions.

Bruneians enjoy subsidies, fat salaries, free schooling and health care and Asia's highest per capita income of more than \$15,900. Every household has at least two cars.

"Every Bruneian is born with a silver spoon ... if you are a simple man you can't complain when everything is taken care of," a

local journalist said.

But independence celebrations will be modest. "The idea is not to upstage the sultan's birthday celebrations on July 15," an official in charge of publicity said.

The recent death of the Sultan Sir Hassanah Bolkhiah's father, the former sultan, is another reason offered.

The sultanate, which has ruled for 29 generations, is still in full control of Brunei. The sultan and his brothers head all the key ministries and Western-style democracy is not practised.

Hassanal, who is also prime minister and minister of defence, enlarged and included technocrats in his cabinet last October after his father's death, diplomats and bankers said.

"Decisions are made much better and quicker now although they are still slow. People see that the sultan and his officers are trying to do a good job," said a Western diplomat.

Despite having an estimated \$15 to 20 billion in external re-

serves, Brunei has not indulged in the sort of white-elephant projects that plague many Third World nations, a banker noted.

There is no law against people airing their views yet few do speak up and the local media rarely reports dissenting views.

Two tiny opposition parties, comprising mainly businessmen, have had little popular impact. "There's no active political life here. Nobody takes notice of the opposition and they are not a force to reckon with," a resident said.

Despite Brunei's relative stability, the sultan retains a British Gurka and a Singapore armed forces unit in addition to his own well-trained royal Brunei armed forces, diplomats said.

The defunct Brunei National Democratic Party, which took part in a British-crushed rebellion in 1962, is a spent force after its 2,500 members and leaders were imprisoned, one of the ex-detainees told Reuters.

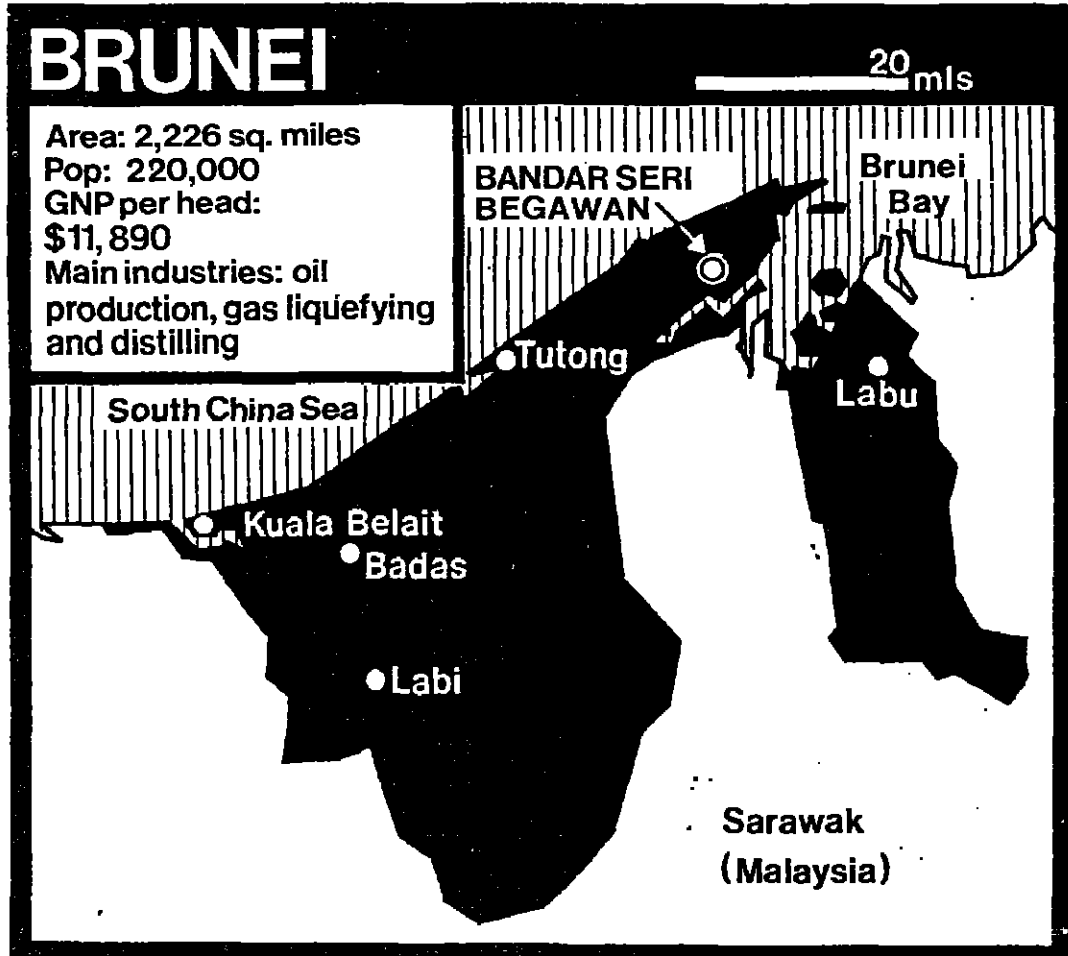
Limited by its size and lack of

human resources, Brunei prefers to concentrate its role in the six-member association of South-east Asia nations and maintain close relations with its neighbours, deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Zakaria Sulaiman said.

But Brunei recently startled the outside world with its \$10-million contribution to the Nicaraguan contra rebels. Hassanah said the United States misled him on the purpose of the fund.

Although Brunei has managed to cushion its economy from world recession with its huge reserves, it is taking steps to address future problems.

The ruler has warned the nation that Brunei's daily output of 165,000 barrels of oil and 750 million cubic feet (21 million cubic metres) of gas, which account for 99 per cent of exports, is a depleting resource estimated to last for only 25 to 30 years.



LETTERS

Voice of America, or of Israel?

To the Editor:

THANK you for alerting us to: "Israel to get a say on VOA broadcasts" *Jordan Times*, Feb. 5-6 1987. Due to your reprint, we have written the first letter of protest to Voice of America and the second to leading Arab American institutions in the U.S. Your excellent coverage of the news is appreciated by us all.

Karen Asfour
President Bassira-Insight
Jordan Chapter of the National Association of Arab-Americans

Mr. Morton Smith
Deputy Director for Modernisation
Voice of America
301 4th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20547

Dear Mr. Smith,
THE Jordan Chapter of the National Association of Arab Americans, composed of American taxpayers, protest Voice of America's proposed construction of a relay station in Israel.

It is our understanding that Voice of America makes a general agreement with host countries to "refrain from broadcasting material which may harm the interests of that particular country." In most instances this may be no more than a formality. However, with Israel, we feel this clause would be applied, as the enclosed article which appeared in the *Jerusalem Post* and was reprinted in the *Jordan Times*, strongly suggests.

The phrase "Israeli or Jewish interests" is vague and can be interpreted to apply to anything. For example, the United States Justice Department's pre-sentencing memorandum establishes Jonathan Jay Pollard as one of the most important spies against the U.S. in the 20th century. How will Voice of America be able to give an unbiased report of a headline issue like this? In addition, will the Voice of America be able to criticise the continued illegal military occupation of Jerusalem and the West Bank? Who is going to judge whether U.S. broadcasts contain material that harms Israeli interests, or does Voice of America believe that Israeli, Jewish and American interests are one and the same?

Israel has an ongoing policy of censorship. The U.S. press and television exposed this censorship on the foreign press during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. By putting themselves in a position where they may be censored, how can the Voice of America broadcast messages of freedom when they are willing to be censored themselves? If the Voice of America agrees to relay its broadcasts from Israel, it may violate the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, i.e. freedom of speech and/or press.

American credibility, already at an all time low, will be damaged beyond repair if this relay station is built. We ask that Voice of America not go forward with this project and reconsiders the location of the site to a place outside Israel.

Sincerely,
Karen Asfour
President Bassira-Insight

Dear Sir,
PERHAPS you will be able to assist us in our protest against the intended construction of a \$320 million relay station for Voice of America in Israel. If Israel is granted this project, paid by our American tax dollars, it will have one more powerful tool to use in censoring opinions which are contrary to their own.

Since the final agreement and signing have not yet taken place, we ask you to use your influence to see that this project does not go forward. Your immediate action could make a difference!

Sincerely yours,
Karen Asfour
President Bassira-Insight

Nakedness all the same

To the Editor:

HAMZEH Hamzeh's letter to the Editor medieval censorship (*Jordan Times*, Feb. 10) attempts to prove that the drawing of nakedness by hand is something different from photo-nakedness, and calls for an undisturbed access to Jordan of artistic nudity. We in Europe were already witnesses of similar polemics, when the Church, in the past, ordered that renaissance paintings must be "dressed". Today art works in Cathedrals are being undressed and are being returned to their original condition. The call for distinction between artistic nakedness and pornography "has been followed by a call for distinction between artistic photo-nakedness and pornographic photo-nakedness and lately with a call for the distinction between artistic and pornographic nudity in films and on TV."

Hamzeh Hamzeh is certainly entitled to his own opinion as regards this matter. However, other people do consider this to be an inferiority complex on our behalf and a blind urge to imitate foreign values.

The implications that the headline suggest also apply to Western societies where values keep changing with time. Islamic values on the other hand are unchangeable because they are founded on fixed values that apply at all times.

Halid Tufic
University of Jordan

Hurrah! Hurrah for Tourism

To the Editor:

Feb. 16, 1987 was yet another landmark for tourism to Jordan

A few weeks ago, we managed to penalise the British tourist for coming to this country and spending some of his money here. Bear in mind that, on a per-capita basis, the British tourist spends more nights (and more money) than any other nationality.

Today, it was decided that it was not enough to penalise one nationality. We should spread the goodness to all other visitors. Presto, by raising the airport tax (without any advance warning), by more than 100 per cent, simple economic theory says we more than double the revenue pouring into the state coffers.

What we always seem to forget is that the so-and-so tourist has a... choice.

Sure, we have to treat the tourists on a reciprocal basis. It was mentioned that, since the British raised their visa fees for Jordanians, we must do the same. But it is not as simple as that.

Has anyone thought what Jordanian tourism in the U.K. means to the overall economy of that country? Can we compare it to the importance of the British tourist to the more than 12,000 families directly dependent on Tourism in this country?

Has anyone compared the total invested in the Tourism sector here and in the U.K. compared to the overall capital investment in each country?

Every industry in this country finds a champion in parliament, in government circles. Every industry gets subsidies, protection, tax exemptions, the works. We get clobbered.

One piece of advice I would like to leave my colleagues with: Get out of this business.... sell shawarma.

Munir Y. Nassar
Amman

Years of No Decision: Episodes in the long story of 'corridor diplomacy' on the Middle East

Years of No Decision
By Muhammad El-Farra
KPI Limited, London and
New York 1987

THE news from the U.S. during last and this week spoke about differences in opinion surfacing between the Reagan administration and the visiting Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, over the idea of holding an international conference on the Palestinian problem. While the news reports highlighted such differences and even suggested that they would inevitably lead to contradictions in the synchronised American-Israeli policies in the Middle East, U.S. officials went out of their way to play down the differences and to dismiss any likelihood of a rift with Israel over the international conference's idea, or over any other outstanding issue between the two countries for that matter. Witness, in this respect, the rifts that did and could arise between Israel and the U.S. over questions like the Lavi project, Israeli-South African military cooperation, the Pollard affair, going back all the way to 1982 when Shamir and his boss at the time, Menachem Begin, rejected outright the Reagan initiative for the Middle East. These rifts, or potential rifts, did nothing to damage the strong American-Israeli relationship. On the contrary, if anything they strengthened the tie between the two — to such an extent in fact that Washington now considers Israel a "major non-NATO ally" after it had accorded it the status of a "strategic ally".

The story behind this organic relationship between the two "strategic" partners is indeed long and complicated. And as such it would certainly take much more time and effort than has already been undertaken to understand it better and more fully. So much has been done already to explore facts and motives involved in the evolving relationship, but there still is a great need to throw more light on it.

The Arab side unfortunately has done little to contribute to fulfilling this need, and that is perhaps the best reason why we have to welcome the publication of Dr. Farra's new book.

The aim of Years of No Decision, Dr. Farra writes, "is to increase understanding of the several different dimensions the Palestine problem has acquired."

"I hope that the episodes in the long history of 'corridor diplomacy' I have recorded will bring home to the reader the way in

which international voting alliances are formed and may be influenced," says the author, who was Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. from 1965 to 1971. But in the book itself he goes beyond this to explain not only his experiences as Jordan's representative at the U.N. but also the various peace plans that have been formulated since the partition of Palestine in 1947 and how the American-Israeli combine had worked to abort and foil these plans. "With only some rare exceptions the United States of America has stood behind Zionism... It is the U.S. which, in one way or another, has accommodated every Israeli war, each Israeli expansion and every other illegal Israeli practice. Consequently it is the U.S. which can help bring peace with justice to the Holy Land."

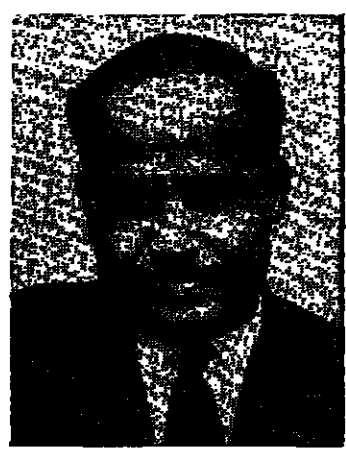
In his book, Dr. Farra recalls and describes many important meetings he had with heads of state and politicians from all over the world, and mainly dwells on his encounters with Arthur Goldberg, the U.S. envoy to the U.N. during the 1967 war in the Middle East, and how Goldberg used to intimidate and pressure him whenever their policies clashed on U.N. resolutions vis-a-vis the Middle East.

Dr. Farra tells of incidents when cables he sent to the Jordanian government, and cables that were sent to him by Amman, were never received in Amman or by him in New York during crucial Security Council debates in and around June of 1967. This suggests of course that the power of the Israeli lobby went beyond political influence in Washington and New York.

Dr. Farra gives a glimpse of this political influence on U.S. politicians by describing a meeting the Jordanian foreign minister in 1969 had with President Richard Nixon in New York.

"In autumn 1969 President Nixon visited the United Nations and made a major speech to the General Assembly. Later he and Secretary-General U. Thant greeted all the ministers and ambassadors accredited to the U.N. The same day the president asked to meet a few delegations from friendly countries, Jordan amongst them. We went to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel to meet him, at around four o'clock. He was apparently briefed by the State Department about our delegation and he was very cordial.

"Our delegation consisted of Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Monem Rifai and the late Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Sharaf, who was then the Jordanian ambassador in Washington,



The author, Dr. Muhammad El-Farra, is Jordan's former ambassador to the U.N. from 1965 to 1971

together with myself as the permanent representative of Jordan to the United Nations.

"Mr. Rifai thanked Mr. Nixon for receiving us in spite of the pressure of work in New York and then turned to discussing the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and other Arab territories. 'No progress whatsoever has been made to bring about the withdrawal of Israeli troops from that part of Jordan,' he said. 'I do not want to go back home empty-handed. You know, Mr. President, we are counting a great deal

does not go back empty-handed.' William Rogers replied: 'Fine. I'll do that.'"

"To the late minister Abdul Monem Rifai and his assistants the meeting was fruitful. Mr. Nixon walked with us to the elevator, shook hands with everyone and assured us again that he would see to it that Minister Rifai would not go home empty-handed."

"The following day Joe Sisco arranged for a meeting for the foreign minister and myself with Secretary Rogers, which Sisco attended. William Rogers, who was known for his honesty and straight-forwardness, spoke to Foreign Minister Rifai very openly and frankly. He said: 'Mr. Minister, let us be frank and honest about it. There is nothing we can do for you other than arranging for you to meet Golda Meir.'"

"The foreign minister could not believe what he heard. It was a shock to us both. We had expected President Nixon's promise to mean anything but this. The American minister, however, did not want to beat around the bush and to mislead us."

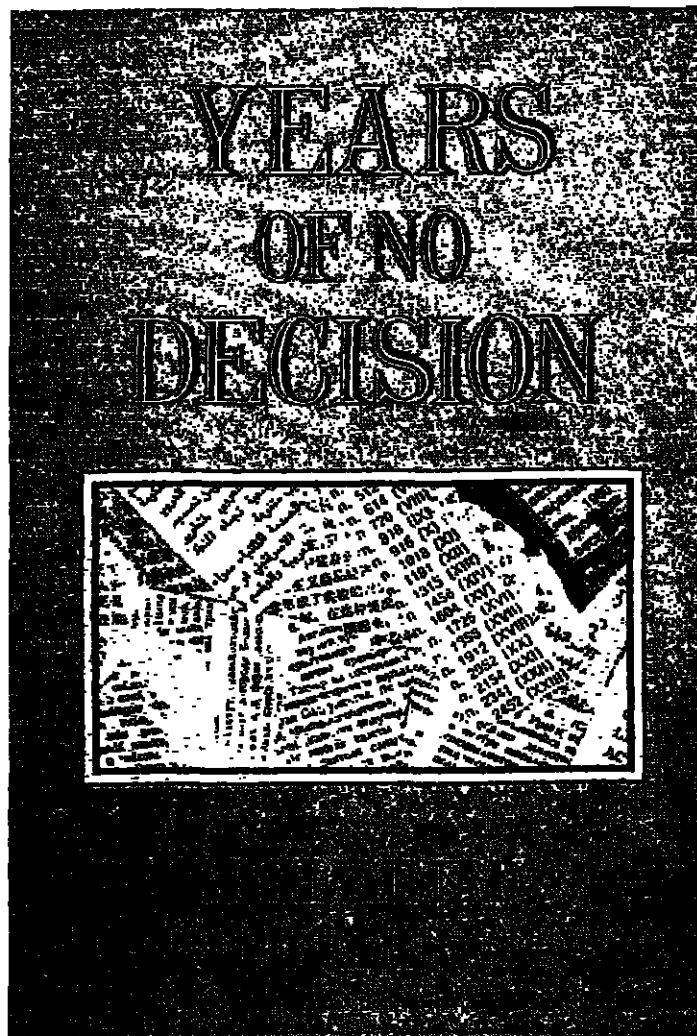
"The day before, immediately after our meeting with the president, we had met Mahmoud Riad the foreign minister of Egypt, since in accordance with the instructions of our heads of state, we were coordinating our work in the United Nations. He was happy to hear what my minister had to say about President Nixon's promises, but he expressed his doubts about them. For him, American policy-makers had lost credibility a long time before."

"Don't be too optimistic," he told Rifai. "You might be very much disappointed. I have been dealing with the Americans for almost two years on this very issue. They are evasive. They are not very honest in their promises. Their diplomacy is not like that of other countries. Don't take what you hear literally." We had, however, remained more optimistic than our Egyptian colleague.

"William Rogers had proved Riad right. Rifai was greatly shocked, and disappointed. 'Is the whole thing a joke?' he asked Rogers. 'I cannot understand it. You tell me there is nothing you can do other than arranging a meeting between me and Golda Meir. But this, Mr. Secretary, does not need your good offices. I can go and meet Golda Meir right now without your help if I want to. She stays downstairs in this hotel.'"

"Secretary Rogers said: 'I am sorry. There is nothing else I can do for you. You have to help us so we can help you.' Minister Rifai said: 'Is this all you have to say, Mr. Secretary?' William Rogers replied: 'Yes Sir.'"

"At this stage Minister Rifai said: 'In that case I shall have to leave for Jordan today. I shall put before His Majesty the King all that has happened. I shall tell everyone how a Big Power treats a friend, the small country of Jordan.'"



"Peace plans for the Middle East have not been lacking. What is common to the failure of all of them is the attitude first of Israel which is always the aggressor and secondly of the world, the western world, in which I include the United States, in particular" — The author.

and on the obstacles which stood in the way of implementing it. For students of Middle Eastern politics the information and analysis supplied by Dr. Farra are a must reading if we are to understand more fully the background to current efforts to establish peace in the area.

Everywhere in this very useful and interesting book, Dr. Farra relates experiences he had and diplomatic incidents he faced, without making his work "an autobiography in the real sense."

The book, he says, "embodies the experiences of just one phase in my life, and reflects many years of the diaspora and unrest which the people of Palestine have endured."

It is not every day that a Jordanian diplomat, retired or in active service, writes a book about his life and work, or about his role in shaping historical events. The fact that Dr. Farra did just that in Years of No Decision means that there is a healthy movement taking place in a positive direction in our midst. Above and beyond this, the book itself is of immense value and interest, not only to us Jordanians and Arabs but also to students of Middle East history all over the world.

Salim Abdo

Bloody Mafia war rages in toe of Italy

By Barry Moody
Reuters

REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy — A bloody Mafia war is raging out of control in Reggio Calabria, in the toe of Italy, earning it the unenviable title of the country's most violent city.

Magistrate Vincenzo Macri, who has led many investigations into the local Mafia, says: "The value of life here has now descended to truly low levels," adding that the atmosphere of violence had spread to ordinary members of the population. Trivial arguments end in murder.

"There is a climate of remarkable violence, a real culture of violence," Reggio prefect Carlo Lessona said.

Reggio and its surrounding province had Italy's highest number of murders, attempted murders and kidnaps in 1986. There were 112 homicides compared with 90 in 1985.

In the province of Palermo, centre of the more well-known Sicilian Mafia, there were 50 murders last year.

Reggio and its province have a population of only half a million people. Lessona told Reuters: "If Naples had the same percentage of murders per head there would be 600 to 650 murders a year and the figure is falling. Here there is a distinct increase."

The killing has continued this year as Mafia clans fight for supremacy. There have been 19 murders since the beginning of this year. According to investigating magistrates, of January's 15 killings all but one — caused by an argument over the smoke coming from a chimney — were related to the war within the Calabrian Mafia or the 'ndrangheta, a word with Greek roots meaning "society of valiant men."

One of the dead was an innocent railway worker who was caught in the crossfire of a Mafia ambush for two other men. A 13-year-old boy was also gravely wounded.

The war was unleashed by the murder of top local boss Paolo de Stefano on October 13, 1985. Magistrates said the killing was retaliation for a car bomb attack three days earlier which missed its target, a leader of the rival Condello clan, but killed three of his men.

The killing of de Stefano created a vacuum at the top of the local Mafia. Apart from the continuing vendetta between the de Stefano and Condello clans many other gang wars have erupted because there is no dominant figure to impose peace, magistrates said.

Lessona said that at one time the 'ndrangheta "even if it was a distorted and sick society, did have rules. In the last year these have all dissolved in a battle without quarter."

In any case the 'ndrangheta has never achieved the clear hierarchical structure of its Sicilian equivalent, run by a "commission" where there is normally a supreme boss.

"Now no-one commands, so the dogs have been unleashed," said Luigi Malafarina, an expert on the local Mafia.

"Reggio and its province have a deeply rooted and extensive presence of organised crime which is among the toughest in Italy," Macri told Reuters.

Starting with the abduction of Paul Getty III, grandson of the American millionaire, the 'ndrangheta carried out around 30 big kidnaps in north and central Italy between 1973 and 1985, usually transporting the victims south to the rugged and impenetrable Aspromonte mountains.

Kidnaps continue in Calabria — there have been 110 in the last 20 years — but they are usually carried out by small families because the profits are small compared with the risks, investigating magistrates say.

The current war in Reggio is for bigger prizes. Macri said, adding that the Calabrians had extensive links abroad including Australia and north and south America.

Reggio is one of the poorest areas of Italy with an unemployment rate around 15 per cent, although the city has an atmosphere of comparative prosperity which Macri attributes to money generated by crime.

Economic development is seen as one way to combat the crime problem but Macri and others say injections of public money in the past have gone straight into the pockets of the Mafia.

There is deep apathy and distrust for official institutions, making people reluctant to help police.

Lessona said the population still resented a decision to make Catanzaro instead of Reggio capital of the Calabrian region, which caused riots in 1970. Since then the people had been left ignored and neglected by the state.

Macri and other magistrates say a climate of mafiosità has infected politics, assisted by the deep-seated Calabrian traditions of clientelism, "favours" and getting jobs or contracts through "recommendations" from influential people.

"I am not sure economic assistance will solve the problem. I would not say there is a direct link between economic difficulties and Mafia violence. In fact I believe it is not underdevelopment which generates Mafia violence but the Mafia which generates underdevelopment," he said.

"It is not a problem of resources. It's problem of the use and direction of resources," Macri said.

He said the Mafia had ways of influencing decisions and allocations of contracts by regional, city and town authorities.

"The way to fight the Mafia, apart from police and judicial repression is to restore correct administration to all public organs, especially in public spending," he said.

New mayor wants to clean up Athens

By Granville Watts
Reuters

ATHENS — Miliades Evert, tipped by some as a future prime minister of Greece, has taken on the toughest job of his life — cleaning up Athens.

Elected mayor in municipal elections last October, Evert has set about his task with customary gusto.

At 47, the youngest man ever to hold the job, Evert is determined to reduce the appalling pollution and traffic noise which makes life increasingly difficult in the ancient city.

Little more than a small town 30 years ago, Athens now houses more than half of Greece's 10 million people and the smog from car exhaust fumes is so thick some days that you cannot see the Acropolis on its hill overlooking the city.

"In the past most of our tourists came first to Athens, now they bypass the city and fly direct to the islands," Evert told Reuters in an interview.

But the mayor thinks that a new cleaner city, with less pollution and better transport could make the tourists spend a day or two in the capital.

Evert said the new visitors to Athens would want to come to the city for cultural reasons, to visit the Acropolis and the museums, and the city could also attract more business conventions.

"But we need a subway system, a second airport, underground parking areas and cleaner air," he said.

The subway system was the main priority. He said it had been postponed for six years under the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

"It could be my first big fight with the government to get the subway started," Evert said.

The system is estimated to cost \$1.2 billion and would initially be

24 km long.

An underground railway would reduce drastically the numbers of buses and cars which presently choke the streets of Athens, and would also cut down pollution, Evert said.

Another must was a second airport to help reduce the workload at the present international airport which is barely able to cope with the extra charter flights in the summer months.

The city is also suffering from a chronic shortage of parking space for vehicles. Any visitor to Athens notices immediately how drivers leave their cars blocking side streets and sometimes double or triple parked, reducing traffic flow to a snail's pace.

Evert, a member of the main opposition conservative New Democracy Party, said the land for a new airport on the outskirts of Athens was bought when he was in the previous conservative government.

Evert said all these main projects were necessary if Athens was to be successful in bidding to stage the Olympic games in 1996. The first modern Olympics were staged here in 1896 and Athens feels it has a priority right to put on the centennial games.

Evert is tipped by many political analysts as a possible future prime minister. He became Greece's youngest parliamentary deputy in Athens 1974 at the age of 34, was the youngest ever finance minister at the age of 40 in 1980 and is now the youngest mayor of the capital.

He has two years left to beat the record for the youngest prime minister which was set by Constantine Karamanlis.

Papandreu, who won a second term in office in 1985, does not have to hold general elections until 1989. But Evert thinks elections could come as early as autumn next year if the nation's shaky economy improves.

Chinese herb medicine: New hope for hepatitis patients

TAIPEI (CNA) — Chinese herb medicine may be more effective than Western medicine in treating type B hepatitis, health authorities say.

A report on the results of an experiment, sponsored by the Department of Health and China Medical College, supports Chinese medicine as an effective means to treat the most prevalent epidemic in the Republic of China.

The report shows that type B hepatitis patients have improved

notably after taking Chinese medicine, and these patients' ability in liver cell regeneration is 2.2 times better than patients taking Western medicine.

In accordance with the Chinese medical theory, 700 patients in the experiment group were divided by symptom into four subgroups of "feverish, dampish, void and silted." They were given different herb medicines.

Fifty per cent of all patients showed notable improvement in liver function tests after six

months of treatment. Liver functions returned to normal levels in many cases. Only 38 per cent of the patients in the control group taking Western medicine could make the same claim.

In a follow-up of 413 patients in the medical centre of the National Taiwan University, 12 per cent of the patients showed the antigens in their bodies had been transformed into antibodies within one year.

However, of the 164 patients under taking herb medicine treat-

ment for half a year, 14 per cent showed the antigens in the bodies had transformed into antibodies.

The authorities say this may suggest that Chinese medicine is more effective in stopping the reproduction of the virus in the body.

According to the report, while 54 per cent of the patients in the experiment group showed ability in liver cell regeneration, only 22 per cent in the control group showed the same results.

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Chinese dominate World Table Tennis Championship

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Table tennis superpower China crushed its old rival Sweden 5-0 to claim the men's Swaythling Cup for the fourth consecutive time in the 39th Table Tennis World Championship.

Chinese women earlier walked home with the Marcel Corbillion Cup, blanking South Korea 3-0 to complete the Chinese domination of the tournament.

This was the third consecutive time that the Chinese men overwhelmed the determined Swedes in a finals battle. It was also China's ninth consecutive appearance in the championship finals.

The Europeans had no answer to the obviously superior and controlled game of the Asians, who dominated with their accurate placements and powerful smashes.

It was China all the way — on the table and in the stadium. Supporters waving Chinese flags shouted for China all along amid ringing of bells in the packed Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Sweden did not field its top player, Jan-Ove Waldner, amid reports the European champion was suffering fever and exhaustion.

Curiously enough, the reigning world champion, Jiang Jialiang, was the only Chinese player to be stretched to three games, first against Ulf Carlsson, ranked no. 22 worldwide, and then against Erik Lindh.

Jiang could not find his rhythm, tying at 4-4, 7-4 and then at 10-10 before beating Carlsson in the first game 21-12. The tall, lanky Swede troubled the world champ and consistently attacked Jiang's backhand. Carlsson overpowered the champ 21-12 in the second game but bowed down in the decider to the Jiang 21-12.

The second match saw Teng Yi blank out Erik Lindh with a no-nonsense score of 21-15, 21-15. Teng dominated right from the start and returned everything the young Swede had to offer.

Lindh mistimed the ball quite often, giving his superior opponent, ranked as the world's no. 3, ample opportunity to deliver

absolutely fantastic shots.

Riding high with a 2-0 lead, the Asians had no trouble outplaying the next Swede in the shape of Jorgen Persson. Chen Longcan, world's no. 2, finished Persson 21-19, 21-14.

The fourth match saw Jiang descend into the arena once again for reverse singles against Lindh. The exciting first game saw Sweden making a determined comeback with Lindh beating the champ 21-19.

But the more consistent game of the Chinese prevailed in the next two games and Jiang crushed Swedish hopes with 21-7, 21-13. With a 4-0 lead tucked under their belt, the Chinese were forced to witness another see-saw battle between Chen Longcan and Ulf Carlsson. Chen made too many mistakes and the Swede led 11-4 at one point.

Chen took time to adjust to the fast pace of Carlsson who took advantage of his height. But Chen came back, produced a deuce and went on to clinch the first game 22-20. The next was a cakewalk and Chen pocketed it at 21-10 to establish his country's supremacy in table tennis with an awe-inspiring 5-0 victory.

Top tennis players battle in Florida

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Tim Mayotte defeated Richard Schmidt 6-1, 6-1, 7-5 and Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina beat Britain's Jo Durie 6-4, 6-1 in first-round matches Monday night in the \$1.8 million International Players Championships.

The straight-set victories at the new International Tennis Centre capped the first day of the two-week, Grand Slam-style tournament that attracted a field including 98 of the top 100 men and women players in the world.

Mayotte, who won this tournament in 1985, is the men's no. 12 seed. Sabatini is no. 10 in the women's bracket.

Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist, the women's 14th seed, defeated Wendy Wood 6-4, 6-4 and Brad Gilbert, no. 16 among the men, crushed Joey Rive 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in other night matches.

The highlight of the day was Silke Meier's upset of Manuela

Maleeva, the 11th seed who squandered a number of opportunities to win a match that lasted 2 hours, 40 minutes.

Meier, of West Germany, fought back from a double match-point deficit in the second set and then held off the Bulgarian in the decisive third set to earn the victory.

Maleeva, the highest seeded player to lose Monday, won the first set 6-3 and led the second-set tie-breaker 6-4 before faltering.

Meanwhile, the men's ninth seed, Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, overpowered Brazilian Cassio Motta 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 in 70 minutes to advance to the next round.

Kathy Rinaldi and Lori McNeil, the eighth and 14th seeds, respectively, in the women's draw, both won their opening matches in straight sets earlier in the day.

Canadian Carling Bassett

wasn't as fortunate, though, falling 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to Katherine Keil to become a victim of an upset in the first round of a tournament for the second straight week.

Rinaldi overcame a slow start to beat Elna Reinach of South Africa 7-6, 6-3, and McNeil had little trouble disposing of Anne Smith 6-3, 6-1 on the hard-court surface.

Mecir, a finalist in the U.S. Open and a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon last year, had an even easier time with Motta.

In other early first-round matches, Aaron Krickstein defeated Matt Anger 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Jimmy Arias defeated Jan Gunnarsson 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 7-5; Thierry Tulasne, the men's 15th seed from France, beat Libor Pimek of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 and Thomas Hogstedt knocked fellow Swede Jonas Svensson, the men's 17th seed, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

S. Korea open talks on Olympics with North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Seoul's chief Olympics organizer signalled Tuesday that South Korea is open to further give-and-take with rival North Korea about cooperation in staging the 1988 Summer Games.

Park Seh-Jik also said he is optimistic the Soviet Union will participate in the Seoul Olympics, and he believes South Korea's restive students will decide that the sports extravaganza is too important to this country's future for them to disrupt.

"Most Koreans regard the Seoul Olympics as the most glorious event in their 5,000-year-old history," Park said.

The retired major general was interviewed by the Associated Press in his 13th-floor office at Olympic Centre, a Pagoda-like headquarters overlooking the Olympic park complex of stadiums and gymnasiums that sprawls along the south bank of Seoul's broad Han River.

Park, a former deputy director of South Korea's national intelligence agency, took over as president of the Seoul Olympic Orga-

nizing Committee last May. "Everything is on schedule" for next year's games, said the solidly built, determinedly upbeat ex-soldier.

The last major construction, of a swimming stadium, is well under way. Most of the other sports venues were already ready and in use when Seoul was host to the Asian Games last fall.

"All preparations are in the final stages with the game 571 days away," Park said.

Park said the Olympics' budget, which has undergone little public scrutiny in this military-dominated nation, is on target.

A total of \$3.1 billion will have been spent by the end of the games, he said, including \$1.4 billion on a five-year government programme of road and subway-building and other improvements not directly tied to the Games, and \$800 million spent by the private sector on yachting, gymnasium and other facilities.

The remaining \$900 million, expended by the Seoul Olympic Committee, is being generated by the sale of foreign television

rights, Olympic coins, advertising and other rights, he said.

He acknowledged the Seoul organizers had hoped for more than the \$300 million basic payment they are receiving from the National Broadcasting Co. for U.S. television rights to the Games.

But otherwise Park mentioned only one negative in preparations for the Olympics: The language problem.

"Language service is essential, and we found some problem areas in last year's Asian Games," he said.

Organisers plan to train hundreds of Koreans as interpreters of English, French and six other foreign languages in time for the Games.

Communist North Korea long has demanded a major role in staging the 1988 Olympics, awarded by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to Seoul alone, and has threatened to lead a boycott by Communist nations if its demands are not met.

Early this month in Switzerland, at the most recent of a series of IOC-sponsored meetings, the North Koreans said they accepted "in principle" an offer by the IOC and South Korea under which the northers would be host to four Olympic events — table tennis, archery, a cycling road race and some preliminary soccer matches.

But the North Koreans indicated at the same time that they still want an additional five or six events, a demand the south-

erners later dismissed.

In Tuesday's interview, Park was asked whether there might be room for additional accommodation with the North, perhaps in the area of the ceremonial arrangements or other non-competition aspects of the Games.

His reply was cautious, but he did not reject compromise.

"That must be discussed in further talks to be decided by the IOC," he said. "We have to wait and see. ... This is an area of further discussion."

Additional North-South talks are expected to be scheduled by the IOC this summer.

As for an East-Block boycott, Park said he had nothing to report on a current, secretive mission by South Korea's sports minister, Lee Sei-Kei, to Eastern Europe.

But, asked whether he believes the Soviet Union will attend the 1988 Games, Park said, "we are quite optimistic."

The Olympics organizer also played down the potential for South Korean student protests during next year's Seoul events. During the Asian Games last September, students opposed to President Chun Doo-Hwan's government took to the streets in demonstrations that were broken up by riot police and tear gas.

"Personally," Park said, "I think the students are coming to be aware of how important the Olympics are and how unwise it is to behave that way in such a critical period... of great opportunity for our country to develop."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

English League to shrink by 1

LONDON (AP) — The planned merger of Queens Park Rangers and Fulham soccer clubs will mean that the English Football League will shrink next season from 92 to 91 clubs, officials said Tuesday. League spokesman Andy Williamson said that although one of the clubs will disappear, it will not be replaced. Fulham chairman David Bulstrode said on Monday that his Third Division club will merge with First Division Queens Park Rangers at the end of this season and play at Rangers' Loftus Road Stadium. British press reports said Tuesday the move spelled the end of Fulham after 107 years' membership of the league.

England's Short wins 5th in Iceland

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — England's Nigel Short won his fifth straight game at the international chess tournament in Reykjavik when he beat Helgi Olafsson of Iceland. Short is the only one of the 12 grandmasters competing for the \$32,000 purse not to have lost a game so far. Johann Hjartarson of Iceland, playing white, beat Viktor Kornev, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1976 and now plays for Switzerland on Monday. Hjartarson's victory made him the first Icelandic to win a game in the tournament. Jan Timman, of The Netherlands, moved into second place, one point behind Short, when he beat Margeir Petursson, of Iceland, in a twice-adjourned game.

Boxing manager calls for 10-second warning

BASILDON, England (AP) — The manager for International Boxing Federation light-welterweight champion Joe Manley called Monday for a 10-second warning before the start of each round in the American's title defence against Britain's Terry March March 4. Bob Mittleman, the manager, said he took the stand because of an incident in Sunday night's fight in suburban London in which another Briton, Lloyd Honeyghan, stopped Johnny Bumphus of the United States in the second round to retain the IBF and World Boxing Council welterweight title. At the start of the second round, Honeyghan roared into Bumphus' corner while the American challenger was still on his stool and floored Bumphus with a combination. The referee ordered Honeyghan back into his corner and restarted the round, but Honeyghan stopped Bumphus with a right hand 55 seconds later.

Karpov draws black in chess turney

LINARES, Spain (AP) — Former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov plays with the "disadvantageous" black pieces in Tuesday's first round of his match with fellow Soviet Andrei Sokolov. Karpov, 35, drew black at an opening ceremony here presided over by World Chess Federation officials Monday night. The winner of the 14-game contest will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov for his title next fall. A ripple of excitement went around the packed hall at Linares' Anibal Hotel when it became clear that the 23-year-old Sokolov, regarded by experts as the underdog, would play white.

Last man to see Mallory alive on Everest dies

LONDON (R) — Noel Odell, the last man to see George Mallory on Everest before he vanished just short of the summit during an expedition to the world's highest mountain in 1924, has died aged 96, the British Alpine Club said Tuesday.

Odell's description of his sighting of Mallory and his partner Andrew Irvine gave birth to one of mountaineering's great unsolved mysteries — whether one or other of them got to the top 29 years before Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing officially made the first ascent.

Reporting for The Times, Odell described what he saw from a vantage point high on Everest's north east ridge:

"The entire summit ridge and final peak of Everest were unveiled. My eyes became fixed on one tiny black spot silhouetted on a small snow-crest beneath a rock-step in the ridge: the black spot became apparent and moved up the snow to join the other on the crest."

The first then approached the great rock-step and shortly emerged at the top the second did likewise. Then the whole fascinating vision vanished enveloped in cloud once more."

Mallory and Irvine were never seen again but Odell's "fascinating vision" has haunted mountaineers ever since.

Odell at first believed that the pair had probably reached the top but later changed his mind.

Goalie's claim of dope-taking stirs storm in German league

BONN (R) — Allegations that West German soccer players take dope could land World Cup goalkeeper Harald "Toni" Schumacher in trouble with his club, fellow-players and the national federation.

Schumacher's claims of dope-taking, made in an autobiography due to appear next month, caused a storm of controversy after excerpts were published in the magazine Der Spiegel Monday.

The West German football federation (DFB) said it would look into whether action should be taken against Schumacher for bringing the sport into disrepute after studying the book.

Ironically, a decision on whether to take disciplinary mea-

sures will be made at a meeting on March 6, Schumacher's 33rd birthday.

National team manager Franz Beckenbauer, strongly criticised by his captain Schumacher in the book, said the goalkeeper would be named today in his squad for a special training session next month.

But he hinted that Schumacher might well be dropped again after a meeting between Beckenbauer and DFB chief Hermann Neubauer on Thursday to discuss the situation.

"What am I going to do if five national players say they don't want to play alongside 'Toni' any more?" Beckenbauer said.

Government, English League agree on membership scheme

LONDON (AP) — The government and the English Football League reached agreement on a plan to partially introduce supporters' membership schemes at all the league's 92 grounds in a move to combat crowd violence.

The system, which is expected to be introduced by the start of next season, will entail the issue of membership cards to cover specific areas of each club's stadium.

The government wanted the clubs to introduce 100 per cent membership systems, but the agreement will cover at least 50 per cent of each stadium's capacity.

After a two-hour meeting with the minister for sport, Richard Treacy, the chairman of the rule-making English Football Association, Bert Millick, said Monday the FA could take sanctions against any club which did not implement the systems.

"The responsibility for discipline is with the FA and if there should be any misbehaviour at a ground, and it is shown that the club has not shown due diligence, including not introducing a membership scheme, then that will be taken into account in taking sanctions against the club."

"I am obligated to see that happens, and we already have the ultimate power to ban clubs altogether," Millick said.

Phil Carter, president of the Football League, which repre-

sents the clubs, said: "We are committed to the principle of working towards the 50 per cent membership for grounds."

But Carter, who is chairman of league leader Everton, admitted that big clubs such as his could face problems when it came to having to move large numbers of ticket-holders in different parts of the stadium.

Home Office Minister Douglas Hogg made it clear that the government expect firm results from the initiative. He said: "The government will be watching how the scheme works, and we will certainly be monitoring it. It's not necessarily our last word on the subject."

The government demanded action following major outbreaks of violence at domestic games during the 1984-85 season. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came out in favour of 100 per cent membership systems, but the league voted against them.

First Division Luton Town, whose stadium was the scene of rioting by visiting Millwall supporters, pioneered 100 per cent membership systems — which effectively ban away supporters — but ran into trouble with the league.

Luton refused to waive its membership scheme to allow visiting Cardiff City fans to travel to a Littlewoods Cup game and the league, which governs the competition, expelled it from the tournament.

Bundesliga turns to Danish players

By Nesha Starcevic
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — With many top soccer stars going to the rich leagues of Italy, France and Spain, the West German clubs have turned to little-known Danish players for international flair.

Denmark's reputation as a breeding ground for talented soccer players was bolstered by its attacking style at the World Cup in Mexico last summer.

The West Germans felt the force of the Danish assault when they lost 2-0 in the preliminary round. The West Germans went on to finish second behind Argentina, while Denmark tumbled out in the second round.

The top Danish stars have been fetching seven-figure contracts abroad since the current gifted generation shot to prominence at the European Championships in France in 1984.

Strikers Preben Elkjaer-Larsen and Michael Landrup have both gone to Italy to earn big money.

German clubs have much shallower coffers. Although their league is one of the toughest competitively in Europe, many Bundesliga clubs are deep in the red.

The unexpected success at the World Cup has helped rebuild interest in German soccer at home. Recent figures show attendance in the Bundesliga has grown this year compared with the previous season.

But while unable to pay for

big-name imports, the German league has been losing its own stars to Italy and Spain, and lately France.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Hans-Peter Briegel long have been earning lire. Bernd Schuster, maybe the most talented but also the most controversial German player of this generation, appears to be at the end of an unhappy road in Barcelona, where he is not even playing any more.

Pierre Littbarski, one of the most exciting Bundesliga players in recent seasons, resettled into a shaky life with Racing Paris following the World Cup. Stylish sweeper Karl-Heinz Forster also went to France, the latest country to attract big names such as Enzo Francescoli, Julio Cesar, Jose Brown and other South American stars.

With no money available for such players, West German clubs have rediscovered Denmark as the source of seemingly unlimited, and often cheap talent.

Scandinavians are no strangers to the Bundesliga. More than three dozens made their living in the Bundesliga in the previous decade.

Allan Simonsen, the pint-sized Danish striker, was voted Europe's player of the year while playing with Borussia Moenchengladbach in 1977.

More recently, Soren Lerby had a distinguished spell with Bayern Munich, leading the Bavarians to their title and cup double last season.

Pakistan objects to condition of Indian pitch

JAIPUR, India (R) — Conflict between Indian and Pakistan officials over the state of the pitch continued Tuesday when the umpires ruled play in the third cricket test was not possible.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan complained during Monday's rest day that rain had soaked part of the pitch and after more heavy rain he and manager Syed Nasser Ahmed objected to the method used to dry the pitch.

In the two days play before the rest day India made 459 for eight and Imran insisted that the match should not resume until the pitch was in the same condition as when the home team batted.

Imran and his manager said artificial methods which violated playing conditions had been used to dry the pitch. They said they had found sawdust on west patches and the character of the pitch had changed completely. "It is now a totally bowlers' wicket," Imran said.

Indian officials said the sawdust on the pitch had been blown there by strong winds. Ranbir Singh, secretary of the Indian Cricket Control Board, added: "We do not accept that the character of the pitch has changed."

Britain's Budd training again

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd said that she had returned to full training for the first time for six months following four days' treatment for injuries which she feared might end her athletics career.

Budd, who was born and raised in South Africa but runs for Britain, said Tuesday she had now set her sights on winning the 3,000 metres title at the World Championships in Rome in September.

She said it was too late for her to consider defending her world cross country title in Warsaw next month.

Budd returned to Britain a few days ago from Freiburg, West Germany, where she was treated by Professor Armin Klumper. She said he had dealt with pains in her injured right leg with laser surgery and injections.

"I can't be sure if it is a permanent cure, but I am back in full training," she said.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUEEN BELLE BISHOP MAGPIE
Answer: A fisherman sometimes stands still while fishing, but more often does this — LIES

5 killed in series of Filipino rebel attacks

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist rebels launched attacks Tuesday in four areas of metropolitan Cebu city, killing five people and wounding four others, two of them children, the military reported.

The attacks in the country's third-largest metropolitan area occurred the day before nationwide celebrations marking the first anniversary of the overthrow of ex-President Ferdinand Marcos.

A rebel statement accused President Corason Aquino's government of turning its back on the spirit of the anti-Marcos revolution, which it described as "a struggle for basic social change."

"It has twisted this mandate to weaken the people's democratic gains, deprive them of their hard-won victories, and instead further stabilise the rule of U.S. interest and the same traditional elite in the country," said the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF).

In the capital, Manila, troops in full combat gear took positions around broadcast stations and other strategic centres because of reports the rebels or Marcos loyalists might try to disrupt the celebrations.

Brig-Gen. Romulo Querubin, commander of the Cebu area, said two men were killed and two women and two children wounded when rebels lobbed a grenade into a school and sprayed it with automatic weapons fire some 12 kilometres south of the city centre.

Officials said about 30 farm families had been staying in the

school after their village was evacuated recently because of fears of a rebel attack.

Gen. Querubin said the three other victims — a constabulary soldier, a retired policeman and another man — were killed in their homes by rebels during separate attacks early Tuesday.

The general blamed a locally prominent rebel priest, the Rev. Rustico Tan, for the killings. Gen. Querubin said helicopter-borne troops and police had been sent to rebel hideouts in the mountains near the city, 575 kilometres south east of Manila, but had found no guerrillas.

Gen. Querubin said the rebels had threatened to stage attacks Wednesday in the city's Fuente Osmena Park, site of local celebrations marking Mrs. Aquino's first year in office.

In Manila, officials have announced plans for a day of fireworks, flag-raising, speeches and dancing on EDSA Boulevard Wednesday. Last year, hundreds of thousands of anti-Marcos demonstrators massed along EDSA from Feb. 22-25 to prevent the military from attacking troops that mutinied against Marcos, triggering the "people power" revolution.

Military sources, speaking on condition they would not be identified, said units had been deployed around state and private

television stations, the main power station, the waterworks and the northern and southern entrances to the capital.

The government-run Philippine News Agency said desk-bound soldiers would be sent from their offices into the streets Wednesday with combat units to augment security.

The Philippine Armed Forces went on full alert Sunday as a precaution after reports that Marcos supporters or Communist rebels might try to disrupt the celebrations.

In a television interview Monday night, Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos admitted some groups within the armed forces might try moves against the government. But he described prospects for success as "less than 1 per cent" because of public support for Mrs. Aquino.

"There are still a few fragments (within the military) that are probably still discontented or disgruntled because of the dramatic changes that have taken place during the past year," said Gen. Ramos, who is credited with blocking at least five plots against the Aquino government.

"What's happening in the armed forces is truly a reflection of what is happening in government and society itself," Gen. Ramos added.

In other developments, the military commander of the Western Visayas Islands, Brig-Gen. Domingo Rio, said he had ordered an "all-out operation" against Communist rebels on the islands of Negros and Panay.

Shultz praises Gorbachev reforms, says Lebanon 'must be quarantined'

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz has said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was taking a major step with his reform drive and was to be applauded.

But Mr. Shultz, addressing educators at a State Department conference, said questions remained about how deep the reforms would go or whether they would last.

"I think it is clear that Mr. Gorbachev is an extraordinary able, intelligent, hard driving man and he sees the need for some reforms in the Soviet system and he has taken some major steps," he said.

"I suppose you convince yourself that they are major steps by the fact that he has gotten a negative reaction from a lot of the so-called bureaucracy that will have to change. If there weren't any reaction, you'd probably have to say, 'well, he didn't do anything.'"

"It's a question, though, how deep the reforms will go, whether or not the system itself will be shifted in any substantial way, and the staying power of it," Mr. Shultz said.

"Nevertheless, I think it's clear enough there is a move toward more openness and there are important changes and it is a fascinating thing to watch and something basically to be applauded," he added.

Mr. Shultz said there was still a "mixed picture" on human rights issues in the Soviet Union, which the United States believed were important indicators of change.

He welcomed the release over the last few weeks of some 150 Soviet political prisoners, including some activists well known abroad.

Mr. Shultz Monday applauded the arrest of four leaders of the Action Directe guerrilla group in France.

"I think it's outstanding," Mr. Shultz said of the arrests. He described Action Directe as "a terrorist group."

Mr. Shultz praised Western Europe for increasing the fight against terrorism.

He also said Arab Nations "had privately welcomed" the U.S. bombing raid on Libya last April, and he compared war-ravaged Lebanon to a place suffering from a plague that had to be quarantined.

"Things have improved with respect to Libya and its leader Muammar Qaddafi since we put an exclamation point behind our sentiments there," he said of last year's raid in retaliation for what Washington alleges was Col. Qaddafi's support for international terrorism.

He said the results of the raid had disproved those who said it

would be counterproductive by obliging Arab Nations to proclaim their solidarity with Libya.

"They didn't. They said we should have done more. They didn't say that openly, they said that quietly," Mr. Shultz said without naming any nation.

He repeated that while the United States "is not looking around for ways to use force," those backing terrorism should be aware that "there are situations where we will use force and we have the will and ability to do it."

He did not suggest that Lebanon was such a case and gave no clues to possible U.S. moves to free nine Americans held hostage by groups there, although he repeated that Washington would not pay ransom for the captives.

"Personally, I like it to a place that has the plague as Europe did in the middle ages," he said.

"We have to maintain faith with the Lebanese people and to show our readiness to help them. But there is a certain need for a kind of quarantine there," he said.

He welcomed as an example of actions necessary to isolate the country the refusal of insurance companies to give coverage to airlines flying to Beirut, which he described as a completely unpoliced airport.

"It's a time bomb flying into your country when something flies from there," he said.

Another group of Soviet emigres returns from U.S.

MOSCOW (R) — More than 40 Soviet emigres arrived in Moscow from the United States after deciding they did not like the American way of life, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Tuesday.

TASS said the latest group brought to about 200 the number of former Soviet citizens who had returned to their homeland since the authorities began issuing re-entry permission to emigres late last year.

The group was composed of Jews, Russians and Moldavians. "Yes, American shops offer consumers a wider range of goods than Soviet shops do," Josif Zarov, a 41-year-old driver who emigrated 10 years ago, was

quoted as saying by TASS.

"But there are none of my friends there, my Leningrad street, everything I was used to since childhood. So no earnings — and I made good money in the States — can compensate for all this."

The Soviet media and officials have given wide publicity to returning emigres in an apparent effort to counter Western criticism of restrictions on emigration from the country.

Oleg Romanenko, a Foreign Ministry official who has been coordinating the return of former citizens, said last week that Soviet consulates had been flooded with requests for re-entry.

U.S. counterinsurgency expert dies at age of 79

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired U.S. Air Force Maj.-Gen. Edward G. Lansdale, a pioneer counterinsurgency expert and close adviser to leaders of the Philippines and South Vietnam, died Monday, he was 79.

Gen. Lansdale, who had been suffering from a heart ailment, died in his sleep at his home in suburban Virginia.

His exploits as a counterinsurgency and covert action specialist brought Gen. Lansdale attention to the point that he became the inspiration for two novels — The Quiet American by Graham Greene and the Ugly American by Eugene Burdick and William J. Lederer.

Gen. Lansdale pioneered the concepts of military civil action programmes and psychological operations to undermine popular support of the leftist Huk rebellion in the Philippines during the 1950s.

Serving as military adviser to Defence Minister Ramon Magasaysay, Gen. Lansdale empha-

sized that the insurgency had to be fought with a four-point strategy focusing on social, political, economic and military factors.

He was said to have told Magasaysay about the broader context of the Huk insurgency, "if I had to live in such conditions, I would be a Communist too."

Gen. Lansdale continued to be Magasaysay's mentor after his election to the presidency of the Philippines in 1953. When Magasaysay implemented Gen. Lansdale's programme, the Huk insurgency withered with relatively little bloodshed.

In South Vietnam, Gen. Lansdale urged a similar multipronged approach, which he believed "would take the cause away from the guerrillas."

Help from Gen. Lansdale and the CIA was key in the rise to power of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Gen. Lansdale served as chief of CIA covert operations in Indochina.

U.S. general defends troubled B-1B bomber

WASHINGTON (R) — The chief of the U.S. Strategic Air Command has defended the B-1B bomber but said its development was behind schedule and it needed better defences.

In testimony to a Senate panel, Air Force General John Chain and three senior pilots generally praised the aircraft, a centrepiece of President Reagan's military modernisation programme.

"The B-1B is ... the best warplane today on anybody's side and it's going to be a better warplane tomorrow," said Gen. Chain.

But he said development was behind schedule and that the B-1B needed better electronic counter-measures (ECM) defences before it could become fully effective.

The B-1B, designed to penetrate Soviet air defences with nuclear bombs and short-range missiles, has been criticised as an expensive, unreliable craft that has suffered fuel leaks and, according to press reports, mid-air stalling.

Gen. Chain told the Senate Subcommittee on Strategic Forces and Nuclear Deterrence that more time was needed for testing and development and that he was concerned at "getting the ECM capability up to the stan-

dard that we would like."

He said he was confident a remedy would be found, but said work had been complicated by improvements the Soviet Union had made to its air defences. He did not elaborate.

Asked if the fuel leak trouble had been fixed, Gen. Chain nodded.

But a knowledgeable congressional aide told Reuters that according to his information the plane still was plagued by fuel leak problems.

One of the pilots, Colonel Mike Kenny, who has spent more than 400 hours flying the B-1B was asked if he would rather fly a B-52 bomber, the predecessor of the B-1B.

"I feel that there is no comparison," he said. "A B-52 is not capable of descending rapidly, of accelerating rapidly, of flying low to the ground, of weaving its way in and out through the countryside, of striking a target as accurately and getting you out of there quickly and home."

Another pilot, Major Mike Elliott, denied reports that the craft stalled in mid-flight, and a third, Captain Fred Strain, praised the B-1B.

Twenty-nine of the craft have been deployed out of a planned force of 100 costing \$20.5 billion.

4 candidates nominated for Oxford University's top post

LONDON (AP) — For the first time since 1224, more than two people are vying for the prestigious post of Chancellor of Oxford University. And there's a political flavour to the race to succeed the late Harold Macmillan.

The candidates are Edward Heath, a former Conservative prime minister; Roy Jenkins, a founder of the Social Democratic Party; Lord Blake, a historian and the soon-to-retire provost of Queen's College at Oxford; and Dr. Mark Payne, an unexpected dark-horse candidate.

The nomination of Dr. Payne, a general practitioner from Warwickshire, came in Monday afternoon shortly before the first deadline for nominees.

"We understand he believes higher education needs a good shakeup, and he would be a reforming chancellor," said Anne Lansdale, spokeswoman for the university.

The post, however, carries no administrative power, and the chancellor has only a prestigious pulpit from which to urge changes in the ancient centre of learning, currently home to about 12,000 students.

The chancellor's unpaid job is to preside over ceremonies awarding honorary degrees in the summer or at other times when visiting heads of state are honoured. The vice chancellor, Sir Patrick Neill, does the actual running of the university.

However, the position carries great prestige and there have been sharp campaigns in the past to woo the eligible voters — those who hold Oxford Master of Arts or higher degrees.

More than 30,000 are eligible to vote but only about a 10 per cent turnout is expected because electors have to vote in person in Oxford, wearing an academic gown.

The vote will be on March 12 and March 14, and it is possible for eligible voters still to nominate other candidates until March 2, though the candidates with the most backing were expected to have emerged in the first round.

Oxford was established in the 12th century, and there have been 192 chancellors since 1224 when a papal envoy granted the university a charter.

Available records indicate there have never been more than two candidates, though spokeswoman Mrs. Lansdale conceded that knowledge of how campaigns were conducted in medieval times could be faulty.

The current campaign got under way quietly soon after the death last Dec. 29 of Macmillan, a former Conservative Prime Minister who was chancellor for almost 27 years.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's name was raised in some early newspaper stories speculating on who would run for the chancellorship, but she was not nominated.

Mrs. Thatcher is not popular in higher-education circles. Oxford dons voted against granting her an honorary degree two years ago to protest the level of government support for universities.

COLUMNS 7&8

Teen preacher weds couple

CHICAGO (AP) — As he read the wedding vows, the Rev. William Hudson III's head was barely visible over the top of the pulpit. But that's to be expected because he is just 13. Hudson, who has been preaching at Zion Temple Baptist Church since he was 8, performed his first wedding Sunday, uniting Regina Jeannette Rice and Gary Albert Henderson with vows he wrote himself. "I heard his ceremonies a couple of times and he's real good," said the new Mrs. Henderson when asked why the couple chose Hudson. Hudson was ordained a minister last fall at age 12, but his mother says he began preaching at 3, before he could read. "What he would do is take the Bible and look at the pictures and preach by the pictures, and he would come out sweating," Patricia Hudson said. "He was just really serious about what he was doing." Hudson has appeared in churches in other cities, once preaching to 1,000 people in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He also has released a record and appeared on television. His goals are to "keep on preaching the way of the Lord and get my own church." Hudson attends Wendell Smith Elementary School and insists he's like any other youngster who likes to play football and basketball. His classmates nicknamed him "the reverend," but they don't give him special treatment. "Except ... they don't curse around me," he said.

Revolt staged in Chinese village

PEKING (AP) — Three men in a village in the eastern province of Shandong led a revolt against Communist Party and government officials and took over village offices for more than 40 days, an official newspaper reported. The three — Chen Liyong, Chen Lishui and Zhang Zhongbao — were arrested by officials of the Licheng County Public Security Bureau on Jan. 6, ending their November takeover of Liuji village, the China Legal News said. The three seized power after a dispute over contracts for land and ended up taking control of the party and government offices and the official party seal, the paper said. The dispute arose from a 1984 contracting of land to four production teams that had some apricot and apple trees. At the time, the trees were small and the fruit yield was low, but the orchard became more productive in the next two years and those who held the contracts became prosperous. Cheng Liyong, a Communist Party member, and the two other men demanded that the contracts be changed so that the fruit trees be equally divided between households. When local officials refused, the three and other people reacted by capturing the village and party offices, the report said.

Rome extends traffic ban

ROME (AP) — Traffic police turned away thousands of cars from the heavily polluted and congested heart of Rome as the city began enforcing an expanded traffic ban. The first phase of the city's plan to relieve the centre of congestion and dangerous exhaust fumes went into effect on Feb. 16. The new phase included a ban on unauthorised vehicles in a large portion of the historic centre, including the area ringing Piazza Navona, which occupies the site of the ancient Stadium of Domitian and now is the showcase of one of Bernini's finest fountains. The ban applies to private vehicles without specific permits to enter between 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., the capital's morning rush time, on every day but Sunday. Also closed off under the expanded ban is the heavily travelled Via Dei Fori Imperiali, a broad avenue constructed in 1933 by dictator Benito Mussolini. The avenue runs by part of the ancient Roman forum, where temples and columns are being heavily eroded by traffic fumes. The ban is to be implemented gradually for the whole city centre in phases. It will last at least until June, when the results will be evaluated. Under the plan, drivers of private vehicles face fines of up to 180,000 lire (\$83) for violating the ban.

Marijuana use down among students

DETROIT (AP) — Marijuana use among U.S. high school students was down last year, but the potent cocaine derivative known as "crack" has made inroads in communities nationwide, according to a survey. The 12th annual federally funded survey of drug use among high school seniors found 50.9 per cent had smoked marijuana at least once, down 3.5 percentage points from 1985 and 9.5 points below the peak year of 1979. But cocaine remained popular and emerged as the No. 2 illicit drug among regular high school drug users. Of the 15,200 students interviewed, 16.9 per cent said they had tried cocaine at least once, 12.7 per cent had used it within the past year and 6.2 per cent had taken it within 30 days. Alcohol and cigarette use remained relatively steady from the previous year, with 65.3 per cent of students saying they had had a drink within 30 days and 29.6 per cent saying they had smoked a cigarette. The 1985 percentages were 65.9 and 30.1. Among 2,990 students questioned more closely about cocaine use, 4.1 per cent said they had smoked "crack" or crystal cocaine within one year. It was the first year the question was asked.

Warhol silkscreens bought for \$5,500

NEW YORK (AP) — Three original Andy Warhol silkscreens, created shortly before the artist's death, were sold for a modest \$5,500 at a charity auction for the Martha Graham Dance Company and School. Despite anticipation that Warhol's unexpected death Sunday would drive up the price of his works to record highs, bidding was sluggish and came in under the \$6,000 estimate in the auction programme. The three silkscreens were part of an edition of 100 signed and numbered by the artist, all of Miss Graham dancing some of her famous ballets during the 30's and 40's, said her publicist, Matthew Rich. The record for a Warhol work, \$385,000, was set at Sotheby's last November for his "Two Hundred One Dollar Bills" painting, said Robin Riley, a spokeswoman for the Fine Arts Division at Christie's, host of the auction. All proceeds from the auction of about 150 items, many donated by celebrities, were to help establish a Martha Graham School of Dance in Florence, Italy.

Montand to head Cannes festival jury

PARIS (R) — French actor-singer Yves Montand will head the jury at the 40th International Film Festival in Cannes from May 7 to 19, festival officials announced. Montand gained international fame in Constant Costa-Gavras' 'The Confession and Z.

Prince Edward appears in show

CAMBRIDGE, England (AP) — Prince Edward, billed as the Sandringham slammer, stalked into a wrestling ring during an amateur performance of Trafford Tanzi and expertly hurled an opponent over his shoulder. The 22-year-old youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II drew wild applause from the audience at the Cambridge Youth Theater for his surprise appearance in the show about a woman wrestler. Wearing a silver jacket, Edward entered the ring where he was introduced as a former middleweight champion called the Sandringham Slammer who would be presenting the prize belt to winner Trafford, played by 16-year-old Peenie Latin. Speaking in a cockney accent, the Sandringham Slammer said he had a special presentation to make to the loser, Dean Rebel, played by 18-year-old Jason Smith. When Rebel slapped his offered hand, the Sandringham Slammer used his specialty — the Windsor knot — and threw the young wrestler over his shoulder, punching the air triumphantly as Rebel landed on his back.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—Now that you have adopted (at long last) a five-card major bidding system, there arises a small but controversial problem about how to open a hand with five clubs and five spades. The bidding authorities seem to differ on this subject. The good players at my local hotel that you should always bid the five-card major first.

What is your sage advice? Would the strength of each suit matter, or would point count decide your choice? Would vulnerability and position at the table influence you? — S.R., South Windsor, Conn.

A.—There are almost as many opinions on this point as there are experts. One group firmly believes that you should open a club. Another, including such internationalists as Edgar Kaplan, editor of "The Bridge World," always opens a spade.

We fall somewhere between the two. With minimum opening bids or very strong hands, we believe in opening one club. With a minimum opening bid, that is to allow us to show both suits and our distribution while keeping the bidding as low as possible. With very strong hands, we open one club to make it as easy as possible for partner to enter the auction; he might be able to scrape up a response over one club, but not over one spade.

That leaves the in-between hands. Those we expect to open one spade so we can make a high reverse of three-club should partner make a two-over-one response.

That gives partner a pretty accurate picture of our strength, and we might be able to complete the description of the distribution with our next bid.

What are the advantages of this method over any other? I really don't believe it makes much difference which way you play. What is important is that you and your partner agree on which method you are going to adopt, so you do not have any partnership misunderstanding.

Q.—(This letter was addressed to Omar Sharif). Please give me information about Charles Goren. I was informed that he was deceased, but I cannot believe that if that were the case the column would appear as by "Goren on Bridge, by Charles E. Goren and Omar Sharif." — B.L. Gerling, Neb.

A.—Like Mark Twain, I am delighted to be able to reply that the reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated. This despite the efforts of some of my partners over the years to do me in. In any event, old bridge players never die; they simply pass away.

Seoul places dissident leader under house arrest

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Authorities placed dissident leader Kim Dae-Jung and eight of his supporters under house arrest Tuesday, one day before a scheduled protest rally by opposition groups, aides to Mr. Kim said.

Several hundreds of police were deployed around Mr. Kim's home in Western Seoul early in the morning to keep him from participating in the rally, scheduled for Wednesday at the headquarters of the Council for the Promotion of Democracy, the aides said.

Similar restrictions were taken against eight council members, they said, while police lines were put in place at entrances to the council building.

There was no confirmation from police or other authorities, but dissident sources said they had been told the measures would continue until after the rally scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.

The sources said the rally was to protest what they called fabrication of pro-Communist charges against dissidents and torture.

The torture issue emerged following the death of a 21-year-old university student last month while he was undergoing police interrogation.

Dissident and opposition leaders long have maintained that government authorities make widespread charges of pro-Communism or leftist actions by dissidents to quell criticism of the government.

The government of President Chun Doo-Hwan has countered that there has been an increased radicalisation of student activists and other dissidents. In some cases, the government has charged, dissidents have taken positions that echo or support those of North Korea.

On Tuesday, the office of the prosecution announced that 17 people had been arrested and another 24 were being sought for allegedly organising a pro-Communist rally.

The announcement said the arrested included three university lecturers and a number of former student dissidents, who were accused of spreading leftist ideology and indoctrinating labour groups with anti-American, pro-North Korean themes.

Similar actions have occurred in recent months as government authorities announced the discovery of what they say are dissident moves aimed at undermining social stability and promoting leftist causes.

Human rights groups have claimed there are about 2,000 people held as political prisoners or prisoners of conscience in South Korea. Government officials long have maintained there are no political prisoners in the country.

The Council for the Promotion of Democracy, site of the scheduled protest rally, is an umbrella organisation of political opposition, dissident, human rights and religious activist groups.